

LAURENS GROUP GUESTS OF CLUB

Clinton and Laurens Commercial Organizations Hold Annual Meeting Here Tuesday Night. Rep. J. B. Britton, of Sumter, Discusses Legislation and Business.

"The business man is the backbone of the nation, and yet he is truly the forgotten man. No laws are made for him; no laws created for his welfare; and in a world full of 'isms' he must think intelligently and fight for himself," stated Representative J. B. Britton of Sumter in an address on "The Necessity of Good Government" made before a joint meeting of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce and the Laurens Business League at Hotel Clinton Tuesday evening.

Mr. Britton, in opening his address, gave his reasons for running for the legislature. Business in 1933 was at a low ebb; his own business was at a complete standstill; he realized that business men must begin to run the state if business were ever to prosper.

"The serious troubles of 1933 are passed, but today we have a trouble which is different and even more serious; for business, the backbone of the nation, must be considered in its legislation. Experimental government such as we have today calls for intelligent thinking. The vast flood of 'isms' must be checked."

As his first major point, the representative chose the labor question. "Labor and capital must come together. Business must have labor and labor's welfare at heart, and labor must reciprocate with business. The remedy to our serious problem is to educate labor and business to the realization that they must work together and that their interests are identical."

The government of South Carolina is a huge business enterprise through whose hands \$41,000,000 pass yearly, he stated. This huge business requires business men to run it. We would not trust our bank account to a man who knows no business, and yet we trust the large business of the state to such men, he stated.

The social security and unemployment compensation acts are destroying business. Their present rates constitute a tax of five per cent on all business, and business can not operate with this large a sum taken out at this time, and yet the indication is that the situation will grow constantly worse, Mr. Britton said.

"The outlook for business is the darkest in my recollection," he said. "It is even worse than in 1933; and unless business does something about it there will be no hope."

We wonder why mills do not come to South Carolina, and yet the trouble is purely political, Representative Britton emphasized. "\$2,000,000 invested by the government to bring new business to the state would repay itself even one per cent under the present government," he said.

The state legislature is apparently riding the cotton mills now, but that is only because they are the biggest industry. If a bigger one were to come, they would let the cotton mill industry alone. At their present rate they are killing the mills, and when that is done the vast taxes paid by the mills will be placed upon the farmer and the state will be wrecked, he warned.

"The cotton mills have done more for South Carolina than any other one thing," he said.

Representative Britton said that one of the worst menaces to the nation's security lay in John L. Lewis, William Green, president of the Federation of Labor, he said, is really working for the good of labor and business; Lewis is selfish, and he is building a kingdom for himself. Business must counter-organize to protect itself against him.

The remedy lies in the hands of business and it is simple. Elect men to run your government on these qualifications: honesty, background, record, business sense, taxes paid (for a taxpayer will attempt to reduce taxes and then industry will flock in), and the absence of factionalism.

"Never vote for a man who is fighting another man. Vote for the man who is fighting for a principle," he urged. "Business men should get together and save the situation. It can be done. It must be done."

The speaker was introduced by William P. Jacobs, president of Presbyterian college, who in his introduction emphasized the sameness, and the leveling influence of this prominent man in politics and in business in the state.

About 80 people attended the joint meeting. President W. R. Anderson, Jr., of the Clinton organization, in welcoming the visiting club, expressed his pleasure that the business men of Clinton and Laurens were creating a spirit of friendly cooperation.

Joe F. Smith, president of the Laurens club, in replying, suggested that (Continued on page eight)

Fairness Asked



Representative J. B. Britton, of Sumter, appealed for fairness by the legislature in dealing with business in an address here Tuesday night before a joint meeting of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce and Laurens Business League.

Farmers Go To Polls Saturday

County Precincts Designated At Which Farmers Will Vote On Cotton Marketing Quota.

A referendum to determine whether or not cotton growers favor the establishment of a marketing quota for their 1938 crop will be held in this county Saturday, March 12, as provided in this year's agricultural adjustment act. If one-third or more of the farmers taking part in the referendum vote against quotas, they will not be effective.

Nine polling places with community committees in charge have been designated by County Agent C. B. Cannon, and circular letters mailed to holders of work sheets in 1937 informing them where to vote. The referendum was called by Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace. Farmers will vote "yes" or "no" on the question of whether they favor a marketing quota for their 1938 cotton crop during the marketing year beginning August 1st. Both white and colored farmers are eligible to vote. No farmer can vote more than once in the referendum even though he may have been engaged in cotton production in more than one community, county or state. There shall be no voting by proxy or agent. Each voting place will be open from 9 a. m. to 7 p. m.

The following places will be used for balloting on the question:

- Sullivan township—Hickory Tavern school.
- Dials township—Abercrombie-Owings store, Gray Court.
- Youngs township—Robt. A. Harris store.
- Waterloo township—Center Point school.
- Laurens township—Agricultural building, Laurens.
- Scuffletown township—Sandy Springs school.
- Cross Hill township—Wm. Miller's store, and the colored school, Cross Hill.
- Hunter township—City hall, Clinton.
- Jacks township—Bell's store, Renno.

County Agent Cannon has issued the following statement pertaining to the referendum:

The marketing quota is in effect now according to the Act passed by Congress. The farmer will vote whether or not to retain the marketing quotas. Government officials state that cotton loans will not be available in 1938 unless producers approve cotton marketing quotas. In other words, if the marketing quota is not voted no money will be loaned on 1938 cotton regardless of number of bales produced, or the price. If the marketing quota is voted to remain in effect, the government will loan on the 1938 cotton crop not less than 52 per cent nor exceeding 75 per cent of the parity price. That means that the government will loan between eight and 12 cents per pound on cotton this fall if the marketing quota is still in effect. If the marketing quota is in effect, a farmer is permitted to produce and market tax free all cotton produced on the allotted acres. It is hoped that each cast a vote based upon his best business producing cotton in 1937 will need judgment as to what might be best for the cotton farmer.

KIWANIANS TO HEAR LANEY

The Kiwanis club will have as its guest speaker this evening at 7:30, State Senator George K. Laney of Chesterfield. The program will be in charge of the committee on public affairs.

Sawyer Denies Law Violated

Says Charge of Governor Johnston Is Untrue That Road Bond Debt Exceeds Legal Limit.

Columbia, March 8.—Governor Olin D. Johnston's charges that the state highway department exceeded the legal limit of its bonded debt drew a complete denial today from Chief Highway Commissioner Ben M. Sawyer.

The new gubernatorial accusations were placed before the general assembly and the house of representatives made immediate plans to go into them.

Johnston sent his annual highway audit to the assembly with a special message charging that "an important state statute has been flagrantly violated at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest, and financial manipulations amounting to gross irregularities have been carried on just at a time when it would be to the greatest political advantage of this department."

Sawyer's reply, a formal statement to the press, said:

"The governor's charge that the highway department violated the statutes with respect to the limitations imposed by them upon its indebtedness is not true.

"The bonds were issued within the provisions of the statutes and the bonds were approved by the state officers as required and in the manner prescribed by law. I am preparing an official report on this matter for the members of the general assembly."

Sawyer, long a target of the governor's enmity, did not say how soon his "official report" would be submitted.

Highway bonds are issued by the state treasurer, after approval by the attorney general.

Johnston called on the solons to "act according to their consciences in behalf of the real interest of the state of South Carolina and the people they have sworn themselves to represent."

The senate referred the audit and message to its highways committee, while the house ordered both printed in its journal and fixed Wednesday. (Continued on page six)

Presbyterians To Raise \$10,090,000

"Every Member Canvass" Opens March 13. South Carolina's Benevolent Share \$98,000.

Atlanta, March 5.—Seeking pledges for the support of its work for the fiscal year beginning April 1, the Southern Presbyterian church will launch its "every member canvass" Sunday, March 13. The total sought is approximately \$10,090,000, including a provision of \$7,670,000 for current expenses and \$2,420,000 for benevolences.

Financially, it is the biggest day in the history of the church. The budget is expected to be pledged in one day by the approximately 493,000 members of the 3,516 churches in the 17 Southern and Southwestern states which comprise the Southern Presbyterian church, and which is served by a total of 1,630 ministers.

Of the benevolent fund, approximately \$1,375,000 will be applied to assembly's causes, apportioned among the 17 synods as follows:

- Alabama, \$49,500; Appalachia, \$79,500; Arkansas, \$32,000; Florida, \$60,500; Georgia, \$96,500; Kentucky, \$62,000; Louisiana, \$49,500; Mississippi, \$52,000; Missouri, \$40,000; North Carolina, \$284,500; Oklahoma, \$5,500; Snedecor Memorial, \$400; South Carolina, \$98,000; Tennessee, \$73,000; Texas, \$115,600; Virginia, \$241,000, and West Virginia, \$35,500.

Distribution of the "askings" among the assembly's agencies will be as follows:

- Foreign missions, \$719,583; home missions, \$380,417; Christian education and ministerial relief, \$178,750; religious education and publication, \$61,875; Assembly's Training school, \$20,825; and American Bible society, \$13,750.

The budget for benevolences and current expenses was set by the General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian church at its meeting in May, 1937, at Montreat, N. C., and the "canvass" will be supervised by the committee on stewardship and finance, of which Dr. B. K. Tenney, of Atlanta, is executive secretary.

LOCAL RED CROSS DRIVE COMPLETED

J. J. Cornwell, chairman of the local Red Cross membership drive waged here last fall, announces that the campaign has been completed and a total of \$611.10 raised in this community. This amount is the second highest ever raised in the Clinton-Goldville area, the chairman stated.

House Approves Vote On Whiskey

Lawmakers, After Hearing Suggestions, Decide To Let People Speak On Prohibition.

Columbia, March 3.—The house of representatives sifted through a mass of suggestions for changes in the state liquor law today, finally approving a referendum which would give the people a chance to vote on whether they want to return to statewide prohibition.

The popular vote plan was in the form of an amendment to a bill to limit private possession of liquor to one gallon. Although the amendment was overwhelmingly approved, the bill itself remained to be voted on when the house adjourned for the day.

"It merely submits the question of whether they want liquor or don't want it," Representative Grant of Chester, author of the referendum plan, said.

The amendment would "confer upon the voters in the Democratic primary election next to be held in the state of South Carolina the right to vote upon the question of the continuance of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors within the state."

South Carolina's last liquor referendum was in the primary of 1934, at which time a wet majority was shown. The present law, under which private dealers are subjected to a high license and close supervision by the tax commission, was enacted as a result of the popular vote.

Wet-dry lines on the house for the most part disappeared in the votes for the referendum, but Representative Ben Adams, of Columbia, was quick to hail the result as a "distinct victory for the dries."

"While many (dries) would prefer the local option amendment for the reason that it would have made it possible for a number of counties to have put a legal ban on the sale of liquor within the next four months," Adams said, "the statewide vote gives the people an opportunity to express themselves sooner than many dries had hoped for."

Those registered against the amendment were: Speaker Blatt, Representatives Abbott, Farr, Foster, Greer, Huggins, McKay, Pratt, Prince, Sawyer. One hundred favored it.

The action superseded a pending proposal for local option. The plan, which was not voted on, would have allowed 15 per cent of the qualified electors to call an election on the question of prohibiting liquor sales in any county.

The house did, however, vote 57 to 40 against an amendment which would have required 35 rather than 15 per cent of the electors to call the local option vote.

"This thing of agitating prohibition and the sale of liquor every four or five years, causes confusion . . . Crews, of Columbia, said in support of his 35 per cent suggestion.

"What is really aimed at is prohibition," he said.

"You can get 15 per cent of your people back home to sign a petition to do anything, while 35 per cent would get a cross-section that included the rural folks," Crews argued.

Bennett, of Marlboro, replied that the purpose of the 35 per cent amendment was "to make a referendum so difficult that you would not have one."

Mrs. John D. Davis Loses Mother

Friends in the city of Mrs. John D. Davis will sympathize with her in the death of her mother, Mrs. W. W. Sellers, 79, which occurred Sunday at a Florence hospital following a critical illness.

Funeral services were held from the residence at Latta Monday afternoon, conducted by the Rev. Fred Hay, pastor of the Dillon Presbyterian church, and the Rev. E. C. Clyde, pastor of the Hopewell Presbyterian church.

Besides Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Sellers is survived by a second daughter, Miss Etta Sue Sellers, Dillon county home demonstration agent, a son, M. M. Sellers of Latta, and a sister, Mrs. W. H. Hilliard of Florence county.

\$2,000 Again Given For Cotton Contest

W. P. Jacobs, of this city, secretary-treasurer of the South Carolina Cotton Manufacturers association, has notified D. W. Watkins, Clemson college extension service director, that the association will again this year contribute \$2,000 for prizes in a five-acre cotton improvement contest.

Largely as a result of the contest, over 90 per cent of the state's cotton crop is now 15-16 inch or longer staple and 70 per cent one inch or longer, as compared with only 20 per cent of 15-16 inch or longer in 1926. Another result, it is stated, is larger and more economical production per acre.

Begins 30th Year



SENATOR E. D. SMITH

With the sounding of the gavel last Friday by Vice-President Garner, Ellison Durant Smith began his 30th year as U. S. senator from South Carolina. The senator was sworn in as a member of the senate on March 4, 1909. The only other senator now sitting who was there then is William E. Borah, of Idaho. He went to the senate in 1907, two years ahead of Senator Smith. During the history of the senate there have been 1,360 senators; and only twelve have served longer than Borah and Smith.

When Senator A. C. Latimer died in Washington, Feb. 20, 1908, seven candidates, including Ellison Durant Smith, who had already made a name for himself as a friend of the cotton farmer, offered for the nomination. A merry battle took place and when the votes were counted, Smith was on top with John Gary Evans, of Spartanburg, and R. G. Rhett, of Charleston, a close second and third. Smith won in the run-off and took his seat while William Howard Taft was president.

Tillman died in 1918, and since that time five men have been sent to the senate from South Carolina, while Smith has served as the state's senior senator. Those were Christie Benet, W. P. Pollock, N. B. Dial, Cole L. Blease, and the state's present junior senator, James F. Byrnes.

Senator Smith is up for re-election this summer. He is expected to be opposed by Governor Olin D. Johnston.

Teachers Hold Last Meeting

The Laurens County Teachers' association held its final meeting of the school year in Clinton Saturday as guests of the faculty of the city schools.

The meeting was presided over by W. E. Monts, superintendent of the Clinton schools, and retiring president of the association. The devotional exercises were led by Dr. J. C. Roper, pastor of North Broad Street Methodist church, with the principal address delivered by Dr. Dudley Jones of the college faculty. An enjoyable program of entertainment was given by a group of students from the Training school.

The following officers were elected for next year: President, A. D. Abercrombie, principal of the Mountville school; vice-president, Mrs. H. S. Blackwell of the Laurens city schools; secretary-treasurer, J. Leroy Burns, county superintendent of education.

After the program the Clinton teachers, assisted by Mrs. W. E. Monts, Mrs. John T. Little, Mrs. J. C. Roper, and the home economics class of the high class, served a delicious luncheon to the visitors.

DEATH TERMED SUICIDE

Laurens, March 7.—A coroner's jury Monday termed suicide the death of Thomas S. Fullbright, 68, Sunday night from a pistol wound. Fullbright was found fatally shot in the yard of his son's home in the Watts Mill village.

**DRIVE CAREFULLY
SAVE A LIFE!**
So Far This Year There
Have Been

3
FATALITIES
from
AUTOMOBILE
ACCIDENTS
in
LAURENS
COUNTY
Let's Strive To Make
1938 a Safe Year On
the Highways.
This date last year, 6.

SMITH EXPLAINS NEW FARM BILL

Senator Addresses Large Group of Laurens County Farmers On 1938 Cotton Program and Explains Major Provisions of Measure.

A crowd of several hundred farmers that taxed the seating capacity of the court house, gathered in Laurens Friday morning to hear Senator Ellison D. Smith, chairman of the United States senate agricultural committee, explain the provisions of the new federal farm program for 1938.

The meeting, one of the largest of its kind held in recent years, was presided over by County Agent C. B. Cannon who, following preliminary remarks to the farmers, introduced the speaker.

Senator Smith opened his address by giving the legislative history of the Agricultural Adjustment act signed by President Roosevelt, and which became a public law on the 16th day of February. He pointed out that the new law is the result of a series of meetings held over the nation in which farmers were asked to make suggestions for a farm program. "They told me in Columbia when I spoke there that they wanted control with teeth in it. If you vote for it now, that is what you will get," he said.

The present cotton legislation, drafted by a senate-house conference committee of which Senator Smith was chairman, provides a national quota of about 10,500,000 bales. The allotments, he stated, are changed to an acreage basis when they are apportioned to the states and the individual farmer is given his allotment in acres rather than in bales. Under these provisions, he said, South Carolina will be given an allotment of 1,278,000 acres and the individual farmer will be permitted to grow as much cotton on this acreage as possible.

Stating that the provisions of the legislation depend on the outcome of the cotton marketing quota referendum next Saturday, Senator Smith outlined the major provisions of the act as follows:

With the state allotment being 1,278,000 acres, the first two per cent of the allotment is set aside for those farmers who have not raised cotton during the past three years and who plan to grow it this year.

Then three per cent of the county allotments is divided among farmers who are entitled to an allotment of between five and 15 acres.

The act benefits the "little farmer" in that those who have produced less than five acres during the past three years are allowed to plant the highest number of acres in use during one of these three years, plus the acreage which was diverted under the soil conservation program. (Thus if one acre had been planted in 1935, three in 1936 and two in 1937, the farmer would be allotted three acres.)

Every farmer who has planted more than five acres during each year the past three years will be given a minimum allotment of five acres.

The remainder of the county allotments will be distributed in each county on the basis of a uniform, fixed percentage of the tillable acres on the farms, deducting from such tillable acreage such land on which rice, wheat and tobacco for market was produced, provided the allotment does not exceed the highest planted acreage plus the acreage diverted during the past three years.

The Commodity Credit corporation would be required to supply loans to farmers when cotton reaches 52 per cent of parity or below this figure, thus keeping the market price above 8 cents per pound.

A penalty of 2 cents per pound would be provided for all cotton sold from acreage in excess of the allotted number of acres.

The legislation differs from the Bankhead act in that a farmer is given the benefits of fertile soil and good farming methods, since the allotment is made in acres and not in pounds.

Godfrey Named Chamber Head

At the March meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held Tuesday night, the report of the nominating committee for the year was adopted and the following officers duly elected:

- President, A. B. Godfrey.
- Vice-President, A. L. Shepard.
- Secretary, Dr. D. O. Rhame, Jr.
- Treasurer, C. F. Winn.

Additional directors: W. R. Anderson, W. E. Johnson, W. R. Pitts, A. B. Galloway, and John W. Little.

The newly elected officers will be inducted into office at the April meeting.