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CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICES HERE FRIDAY

There were no sensations sprung in the meeting of the state campaigners here last Friday. There was an abundance of good humor but no disorder. The three special policemen on duty for the occasion earned their money easily. Due to the altercation in Chesterfield the preceding day between Dr. Adams, candidate for the office of lieutenant governor and a man who claimed to be an adherent of Mr. Bethea, it was deemed advisable to assign a policeman to duty on the stand during the speaking. There was no trouble however, which may prove that preparedness is the only sure way of maintaining peace. Those who went to the meeting in search of sensation were disappointed. Of course there was a smart guy in the crowd. There always is. Those who thought him funny laughed at him; but some people are easily amused, at any rate.

Many of the candidates expressed the opinion that the crowd in Camden last Friday was the largest before which they had spoken during the present campaign. It was variously estimated at from two thousand to twenty-five hundred people. Many ladies were present and scores of automobiles and vehicles of various kinds were lined up on the outskirts of the crowd that thronged on Monument Square where the meeting was held. Every candidate got a respectful hearing and the few attempts at noisy demonstration while any candidate was speaking were promptly silenced by Mr. L. A. Witkowski, who presided.

Judge Mendel L. Smith and Mr. Jno. G. Richards, both of which gentlemen played so important a part in the last campaign, were among the listeners. Except for a reference by Mr. Duncan who claims to have "put them down and out" in the last campaign, they were allowed to go unmolested.

During the course of his speech Governor Manning, in referring to his efforts toward the enforcement of the prohibition law, said that Kershaw County was among those that had given him least co-operation and most trouble. He told of the attempted suspension of Sheriff Huckabee and cited the authority upon which he had acted. Mr. Duncan, sitting alongside the Governor during his speech, caused considerable mirth by twice offering to hold

an umbrella over him and finally in his desperation to be of assistance gave him a drink of water. The Governor was presented with a bouquet at the end of his speech.

In his turn ex-governor Blease, ridiculed Governor Manning for his action in the suspension of Sheriff Huckabee and told what his stand was on certain issues. Mr. Cooper confined himself strictly to a discussion of the issues which he considered vital. Mr. Duncan was, as usual, impartial. He attacked them all. Mr. DesChamps was the last speaker of the day and in view of the heat and already long time that had been taken up by the speakers, simply announced his candidacy.

The speaking was head off by W. Books Dove, candidate for the office of secretary of state. He told of his eight years' experience as chief clerk in the office of the Secretary of State and considered that this experience qualified him for the office for which he is seeking. He claimed an intimate knowledge of the complex corporation laws and of the many thousand corporations existing in South Carolina, which knowledge, he said, was necessary to a satisfactory fulfillment of the office.

George W. Wightman, the other candidate for secretary of state, prefaced his speech with a few jokes and denounced the system of succession from chief clerk to Secretary of State which has been going on so long, as he said, in connection with that office. He said that while in the Senate he had opposed free tuition in the state institutions because, after all, it was the rich man who profited by that system and that he favored the borrowing of money from the state by prospective students in its stead. Mr. Wightman was considerably cheered at the conclusion of his speech.

Following the candidates for Secretary of state, the aspirants for state-treasurer had the stand. S. T. Carter, candidate for re-election, reviewed his record in the office and said that he was proud of it. He answered the anticipated attacks of his opponent relative to the disbursement of his salary and defended his selling of certain bonds at private sale. He offered proof to show that it was the wisest and most profitable thing to do from the view point of the State in spite of the fact that it laid him open to political attack of which he was advised by business men in Columbia to whom he had gone for advice before entering into the sale.

D. W. McLaurin, who is opposing Mr. Carter for re-election, told of his



W. T. Thrower

career as a Confederate soldier and of certain things that ought to be provided for the veterans toward which end he has been working. He saw fit to attack Mr. Carter because that gentleman owns an automobile and nevertheless sends his daughter to Winthrop College on free tuition scholarships. He condemned the private sale of bonds and intimated that in a private sale there might be private profits.

W. T. Thrower, first of the candidates for railroad commissioner, spoke of the glorious past of Camden and of Charleston and foretold the revival of this grandeur at a future time when the railroads shall have been forced to cease all discrimination. He told of the origination of railroad rates when they were compiled not accord-

ing to the cost of transportation but in relation to the convenience of railroads in comparison with old methods of transportation. He spoke of how the mileage had been gradually reduced from six cents through various stages down to the present mileage of two and a half cents and how at each reduction the people had profited and railroads benefitted. Mr. Thrower produced a copy of the Monroe Tariff, No. 4, to show the discrimination in railroad rates and showed that a wholesale merchant of Camden is forced to pay a higher rate for a shorter distance than the merchant in Monroe, N. C.

James Cansler, next speaker for railroad commissioner, made a characteristic speech. He had come around, he said, to let the good people know that he was still alive and in no danger of dying and expressed confidence in his election. Mr. Cansler said that he had come within an inch and a half of being elected before and that how being up against the most ignorant bunch he had ever opposed, he felt no doubt of his approaching success. He said that while he was lame in the leg his opponents were lame in the head and while he did not deny that they were handsome fellows, men were measured not around the grille but around the head. He denied that the incumbent was responsible for improvements on the railroads, as he claimed, such credit being due to the railroads themselves, and said that if the incumbent was the author of the express bill, as he boasted, he ought to be re-elected to the post.



R. I. Manning

Albert S. Fant announced himself as simply a young man seeking the suffrage of his people. He had never served, he said, in a political capacity and had, therefore, no record of which to boast and none for which he need offer apology. He was running on the one and only issue in the race for railroad commissioner, and that issue was clean politics. He discussed the importance of the position for which he was seeking. Spoke of the flattering endorsement which he had received from the people of his own home and vicinity and asked to be measured by his own competency and not by the demerits of his opponents. He concluded his speech with a joke on Mr. Hampton which was received with considerable applause.

G. McDuffie Hampton thanked the people of Kershaw county for their support in his last race for railroad commissioner and reported on the work which he had been able to accomplish in office with the aid of his colleagues. He told of the careful inspection of the road-beds, tracks and trestles and of the vast assistance which his experience as a civil engineer had been to him in fulfilling the duties of railroad commissioner. He said that he had been the author of the resolution whereby all wooden and unsafe trestles should be replaced by safer and more modern ones of steel and concrete and that in three-fourths of the cases this has already been done. He defended the present express rate bill of which also he is the author and said that South Carolina has the best rate that she has ever had and that since the passage of the bill no complaint has come into his office. He spoke of the importance of the office, reviewed the duties, and stressed the necessity of electing a man with the necessary qualifications. He asked that the opinions of his opponents be weighed with his own accomplishments and expressed his willingness to abide by the results.

W. H. Kelly, last speaker for railroad commissioner, told of his endorsement by his own county and said that he was in favor of railroads, their extension and increase. He promised that if elected he would see that the road-beds, trestles, bridges and stations were kept in good condition and that he would favor the short roads over the trunk lines because they extended into and developed the rural districts.

Following the aspirants for railroad commissioner, Dr. E. C. L. Adams, candidate for Lieutenant Governor, was introduced. Dr. Adams said that he stood for the uplift of conditions in general for the support of education and all institutions of learning, whether denominational or not, and for the enforcement of every law on the statute book. He wishes to see passed suitable legislation for the improvement of lands on the rivers and streams but believes that the tax for such purposes should be so graduated as to fall on the holders of those lands and not on the entire people. If elected, he said, he would be found doing his du-

ty and not on a trip with Henry Ford, which, he claims has brought disrepute on the high office for which he seeks, and that he would not lend his endorsement to a newspaper that attacked Wilson and the Democratic party on every page. Dr. Adams, referring to the altercation at Chesterfield, said that at the conclusion of his speech in Chesterfield he had been attacked by a man whom he had never seen before in his life, and without warning. He read to the audience an account of the affair which appeared in the Columbia Record. In concluding his speech he said that he was running for office on his merit and his manhood and that he needed no man to do his fighting for him.

A. J. Bethea, who followed Dr. Adams among the speakers, made no reference whatever to the Chesterfield affair. He spoke of his career as a teacher in the schools of Camden and thanked the people of Kershaw county for the support they had given him in the previous election when they had taken him on faith alone. He claimed that his trip to Europe with the Ford party had given him an opportunity not only to study war conditions, but the peaceful art as well. He told of the efficiency of the European farmer and of the small acreage on which they lived. He expressed himself as favoring a state warehouse system divorced from politics and in biennial sessions of the legislature, since there is now too much legislation. He said that he stands for peace, harmony and good will and is opposed to political strife. He believes further that elections should be held every four years so that there would be more time to devote to peaceful arts and the happiness of the people stands for the extension and development of our educational system, clean politics and good government. Mr. Bethea said that he

had no apology to make for the fact that his life has been connected with constructive Christian endeavors in his community, which work, he said, he did before he became Lieutenant Governor and will continue to do. He claimed to have the unanimous en-

dorsement of the Senate. Mr. Bethea was given considerable applause as he left the stand.

J. T. Duncan was the first of the gubernatorial candidates to be heard. He didn't waste much time in pleasantries but waded immediately into the attack. "Cole Blease was governor of the penitentiary, 'Dick' Manning is governor of the asylum, and now what you need is a governor of South Carolina," said Mr. Duncan. According to him, Bethea might be swapped for a yellow dog, Blease has but one competitor in the field of falsification, DesChamps is the barnyard candidate, and settle "Dick" Manning and Cooper are pretty nice fellows, the former's faults are legion and the latter has gotten into bad company. None were exempt from the charge of being lined up with the liquor interests. Mr. Duncan said that it was his custom to carry a searchlight in the day time to find an honest man. He said that Mr. Bethea's answer of "I don't know" in reply to his question as to who did the fighting for him in Chesterfield, was quite characteristic of that gentleman. He said that he was also a member of the Baptist Sunday School and that Mr. Bethea was once in good standing in that institution but that his standing could now be gotten from any member and he claims that they would swap him for a yellow dog. "All they say about Bethea's crooked dealings," he said, "is true—and then some."

The candidate discussed "the system" and its perfection. He showed a programme of a recent convention in Columbia which contained among the names of the speakers Manning, Cooper, Blease and Bethea and which ended, as he said, with the final ode, "God be with you." He said that he was beset day by day with speakers who asserted that they wouldn't say anything against anybody. Such ethics he claimed have made politics a paradise for thieves, and that he wouldn't express his sympathies if any man of them be landed in jail. He thinks that Cole L. Blease will plea for a pardon before God on the ground of his own pardon record. When Mr. Duncan referred to Blease as "cold footed" there were cries



Andrew J. Bethea

of "Hurrah for Blease," at which said "Hurrah for Blease" if you do, to, but vote for Duncan." He said the only competitor in the field of falsification who could compete with Blease was Andrew J. Bethea.

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Governor Manning was greeted a round of applause as he took stand. In beginning he said that appeared before the people not as a candidate for re-election but as a man and as such he deemed it his work to should give an account of work accomplished and not stir up old and prejudice. He said that in campaign of two years ago he had discussed and given his views on schools, the Torrens system, the warehouse, and all other issues of mains as the paramount issue. He in South Carolina to continue a lawless people or a lawful state held up to the people for their choice, he said, conditions under which laws are to be respected and obeyed a return to conditions under which 500 criminals are pardoned.

He told at length of lawless actions as he found them when he came Governor and of his revocation of the commission of the old constable so that the liquor laws might be enforced by local authorities whenever could get their co-operation. He interrupted here in his speech by Duncan who asked if Ben Stokes were on his pay roll, to which question Governor Manning answered, "No, er has been."

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