

S. C. POLITICAL SITUATION

DISSERTATION ON WHAT MAY OR MAY NOT HAPPEN NEXT YEAR

The Candidates So Far.—What Some of Them Stand For And Who They Stand With.

The near advent of the second session of the seventy-second general assembly which meets in Columbia on Tuesday, January 8, has revived discussion of the probable political situation next summer.

Political prophesy is always dangerous; at no time more so than at the present. The great war in which America is engaged is rapidly upturning former standards, and those of this State are passing through the leavening process. However, one incontrovertible premise may be laid down: No one opposed to this war or to the administration in its efforts toward a victorious conclusion of this war need offer for political preference in South Carolina with hope of success.

Each politician has to reckon with one factor; perhaps before the next campaign the American troops in France will have offered valorous and heroic fight to the Germans, and out of such engagement there might have arisen a South Carolinian, exalted by daring and sacrifice, incapacitated by injury for further service. Should he come back to his home State and offer for election to almost any office, there is little chance for him being defeated by the "stay-at-homes." Out of this arises a prediction: The soldiers fighting the battles of democracy on Europe's ensanguined fields will be the future rulers of the United States, South Carolina among them. The politicians of the present may as well prepare themselves for the overturning of their order.

No man in South Carolina at the present time offering for office can predict his election a year from now, but the relative strength of candidates, announced and prospective, at this time can be fairly accurately gauged.

For the U. S. Senate.

Cole L. Blease, who has announced definitely for the United States senate, is not as strong as he was when he ran for governor in 1916, and was defeated. However, he is not "dead" by any means, as some would perforce believe. He is alive enough to be in a second race should the primary be held at this time. Either Senator Tillman, who it seems assured, will run if his health permits, or Congressman A. F. Lever, who, undoubtedly will be in the race if the senior senator does not make it, can defeat the titular leader of the so-called "reform party." The ex-governor's speeches at Pomaria and Filbert estranged some of his most powerful lieutenants, and consequently weakened him with the rank and file of the minority faction.

Col. Nat B. Dial, of Laurens, is definitely announced for the senatorial toga, and he has considerable strength. Although the Laurens man has entered the race as a non-partisan candidate, yet he can be aligned with the anti-Blease faction. He assuredly will make a strong fight against the senior senator, should he run. Col. Dial will undoubtedly get all the intensely bitter anti-Tillmanites for the 90's who will not vote for Tillman and who are as strongly opposed to Blease. This vote, along with a considerable personal following, will make him a formidable candidate.

Among those who have been suggested as other possible candidates but who have made no announcement are: R. Goodwyn Rhett, of Charleston; L. D. Jennings, of Sumter; W. P. Pollock, of Cheraw, and Dr. Geo. B. Cromer, of Newberry. Latterly, however, Dr. Cromer's name has been repeatedly mentioned as a candidate to oppose Congressman Fred H. Dominick, of the third district. It has been said that the perennial candidate, John T. Duncan, of Columbia, will announce for the senate instead of governor this year.

W. Jasp. Talbert, of McCormick, who has definitely announced for the senate, is a strong Blease partisan and bitter political enemy of Senator Tillman.

For Governor.

There are five candidates definitely announced for governor and two in perspective. Robert A. Cooper, of Laurens, stated some time ago that he will make the race, and he stands the best chance of being elected, although Lieut. Governor A. J. Bethea has gained strength and is looming up. These two men are strongly anti-Blease, and one of them will go into the second race with a Blease candidate. Attorney General Thomas H. Peoples and W. A. Stuckey, of Bishopville, have been aligned with the Blease faction, are the only ones of that faction so far definitely announced for governor, but Major John G. Richards, chairman of the State

ACQUITTED WOMAN KILLED.

Lucy Marsh Fatally Shot From Ambush in Kershaw County.

Camden, Dec. 19.—Lucy Marsh, a white woman, was shot and instantly killed seven miles east of Camden this afternoon, and her mother, Rebecca Marsh, was slightly wounded in the head from two loads of buckshot. Andrew Baker, a white man, has been placed in jail charged with the killing.

At the last term of court, Lucy Marsh was tried for the murder of Mrs. Estelle Baker, the wife of Andrew Baker, and was acquitted by the jury. Both women were tenants on the farm of "Doctor" G. J. Baker, and this afternoon had loaded their household goods on two wagons and were moving away.

Three eye witnesses stated that Andrew Baker lay in waiting behind a tree and fired two loads of buckshot into the backs of the two women. Lucy Marsh fell forward into the wagon, dying instantly. Andrew Baker went on toward his home, where he was arrested a short while after by Deputies Bateman and Whitaker, but he offered no resistance. When told that he was charged with the shooting he remained silent and has made no statement of the affair.

No one has been convicted of the murder of Mrs. Estelle Baker and it is thought that the real murderer will come to light at the trial of Baker.

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railroad commission, will undoubtedly be in the race and strong pressure is being made on John L. McLaurin, of Bennettsville, former United States senator, by his friends in Anderson county to enter the contest. It is expected that he will offer. John Madison DesChamps, of Columbia, who can be classed as an anti-Blease man, has definitely entered the race. Mr. DesChamps was in the race for governor last year.

Of the Blease candidates so far announced, Attorney General Peoples apparently has the edge on the other so-called "reformers." If the primary were held now he undoubtedly would go into the second contest with an anti-Blease man. Mr. Stuckey, however, will make a strong race; he has announced that he will pitch his campaign as leader of the agricultural and labor elements of the State. He promises to make the fight interesting, he asserts. John G. Richards, so far unannounced, is the choice of some of the Blease faction and they will undoubtedly prevail on him to make the race, and will endeavor to make him the standard-bearer of the self-styled "reformers." John L. McLaurin, say politicians who are studying the situation, is gaining ground in the Piedmont section, particularly since Lowndes J. Browning, of Union, who himself was a candidate for governor in 1914, has endorsed him.

Proctor Bonham, senator from Greenville county, some months ago was spoken of as a possible gubernatorial candidate, but lately this talk has subsided. Should Senator Bonham enter the race he would offer complications for the other aspirants; he is not only extremely popular in the Piedmont section of the State, where he has served a number of terms as solicitor of the thirteenth judicial circuit, but he is a "stump" speaker of experience, ability and magnetism. He would draw votes from both political factions.

For Attorney General.

Claud N. Sapp, assistant attorney general, a Blease partisan, has announced to succeed Thomas H. Peoples, as attorney general. Robinson P. Searson, a member of the house from Barnwell county, who has been opposed to the minority side of the political fence, but not an extreme factionalist, also has announced. It is understood that Sam M. Wqlff, formerly a member of the house from Anderson county, will make the race. The name of Samuel T. Lanham, master of Spartanburg county, also has been prominently mentioned for attorney general.

George W. Wightman, of Saluda, who was defeated last year by William Banks Dove for secretary of State, has announced that he will oppose Mr. Dove for the same office next year.

Edward C. Elmore, formerly chief clerk for the comptroller general, has announced that he will oppose Comptroller General Carlton W. Sawyer next year.

Junius T. Liles, of Orangeburg, chairman of the ways and means committee of the house, has made a conditional announcement for Lieutenant governor. It is understood that Dr. E. C. L. Adams, of Columbia, who unsuccessfully opposed the reelection of Lieut. Governor Bethea in 1916, again will make the race.—W. J. Cormack, in the News and Courier.

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