

Extravagance in South Carolina Discussed by Ex. Senator Mayfield

Ex. Senator S. G. Mayfield has handed The Herald a copy of speech made at the county Democratic convention held last week. It was not possible to get the address in type along with the report of the convention last week, so The Herald takes pleasure in printing today the remarks of Mr. Mayfield, which are on an intensely interesting topic:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention:

We are assembled today to organize the Democratic party in Bamberg county, and to help formulate the policy of the Democratic party in South Carolina for the next two years.

In this state, where a nomination by the Democrats means an election, all issues must be fought out within the party, it is of the highest importance that these issues be brought out and discussed in public; the people informed and the vote of the electorate recorded as the will of the party. A lack of political differences means political dry rot; political decay and eventually corruption in public places. There is no healthier sign in political matters than for the strongly matched equally divided lines of opinion to be presented in argument to the people for their approval or rejection.

Believing this, I am presenting to this convention my views on the political situation of this state and of this county.

When I left the senate in 1904, the state had reached nearly \$1,000,000 as its total levy for all purposes. In 1910 its levy was \$1,847,532; in 1915 it had risen to \$2,463,759.82, reaching a levy of 7 mills. In 1918 it had climbed up to 9½ mills, a total of \$3,376,130.00, while in 1920 it had bounded upward to \$6,091,241.39, and still the cry has been for more money.

This enormous increase has been brought about by unwise legislation; by multiplication of offices, so that now we have a small army of office holders in the city of Columbia; the increase in salaries has run up to about \$285,000, caused by the multiplication of judicial districts, commissions and additional institutions. The salaries of these office holders were fixed by the legislature when prices had soared to mountain heights, in fact had reached the loftiest pinnacles of those mountain heights.

So now we have a spectacle of a portion of the country of the great state of South Carolina rendered bankrupt by the boll weevil and deflation, while the whip of the tax gatherer year by year is lengthened and a new thong added to the lash and this whip brought down upon the backs of the tax payers with all the terrific force of an organized office holding class thus extorting the life blood from the people.

It is true the legislature "in its wisdom" extended the time for payment of taxes practically until September 1st and heaped this tax upon the tax of 1922 to be collected this fall. It is true that many petitions presented the conditions of the state, both of the farmer and the merchant, the banker, the business man and the laborer, and yet this legislative body turned a deaf ear and did not materially decrease the appropriations, but claims by diverting the source of taxation that it was lightening the burdens of the tax paying people; for instance it laid a tax upon the poor man's dog and compels it to wear a collar under heavy penalties on the part of the owner; it laid a tax upon gasoline at 2¢ per gallon, and thus said, "we have reduced your taxation." But when it came to the reduction of the appropriations the legislative body did not materially reduce the taxes.

It has been claimed that the legislature reduced the taxes more than \$700,000, but the parties so claiming failed to call attention to the fact that the legislative body failed to appropriate \$90,000 for the Citadel; but granted permission for the Citadel to borrow it; failed to repay the loan of the sinking fund commission for the state hospital for a loan of \$24,053.24; it failed to repay the loan of the sinking fund commission to S. C. college, \$37,500.00; to the South Carolina University of a loan of \$50,000; it failed to pay the loan to the state hospital for another loan of \$66,666.66; it failed to pay the interest for one year on this sum of \$18,952.66, making a total of \$272,172.56 that we find in large sums. The other sums we have not followed up.

We are in favor of the public schools for from these schools 99 per cent. of the boys and girls receive their education; we are in favor of educational institutions, but these institutions must not be allowed to be too heavy. As it is we find in the South

Carolina university about six hundred pupils in attendance, and about one hundred and thirty parties on the pay roll.

By reference to the superintendent of education's report it will be found that the income from all sources brings the grand total up to \$300,000.00, so that it costs the state \$633.78 per capita for every pupil attending this college, (figures taken from the report of the state superintendent of education, pages 476-477) which we submit is unfair and unjust use of the public funds and should be reduced.

Without going further into details, it is evident that nothing but an appeal to the people and the presentation of the facts can give any aid to the taxpayer. Those who are responsible for this enormous taxation should be turned out of office. It was the fixed policy of this state when the sinking fund commission was created to reduce the bonded indebtedness and eventually relieve the state from any bonded indebtedness. This policy has been reversed and while the constitution of the state requires that the legislative body shall annually levy an amount sufficient to meet the appropriations together with the other revenues of the state, yet the legislative body has systematically failed to make a levy high enough to meet its enormous appropriations, and there has now been built up a floating indebtedness aggregating about \$4,000,000.00. The governor advocates the issuance of \$10,000,000.00 in bonds; others advocate the issuance of \$3,500,000 in bonds to complete the canal. Add these sums together, and if we retire the floating debt of the state that has been created because the legislature has failed to do its duty, with the bonds asked for, we would have a total bonded indebtedness of \$23,400,000.00, the interest upon that would amount at least to \$1,250,000. Add to this the annual expenditure as now reached to meet the expenses of the state of about \$6,000,000 and you have before you the state mortgaged by reason of the bonds for practically \$25,000,000 and an annual expenditure of not less than from six to \$10,000,000 annually. Can you people meet this expenditure? Can you pay last year's taxes? Have you the money to pay them? Can you borrow this money at the banks to pay them? Do you hope for any relief from the ravages of the boll weevil? Do you hope to see your cotton crop in the county restored to 34,000 bales as against 4,000 last year. If not, from what source, I beg, do you hope to raise the money to meet these enormous taxes, piled mountain high, and office holders still seeking to pile them higher?

The people are the masters. By your votes you can turn out or elect the men who administer the laws of this state. If you are satisfied with present conditions, then reelect every man to the office he now holds if he wishes it. If you are not satisfied then turn out every man who holds such office in this state. Reelect those you wish and turn down those who are responsible for the oppression and waste of public funds. This is your sovereign right and before God you are bound in duty to protect your home and your families.

May Sign Up Until June 1.

Columbia, May 8.—Although over 420,000 bales have already been signed up and the original quota was only 400,000, officials of the South Carolina Cotton Grower's Cooperative Association announce that the books will be kept open until June 1 and opportunity given those who have not yet joined to affiliate with the organization. It is expected that at least 500,000 bales will have been signed up by June 1.

The campaign to sign up 400,000 bales by May 1 is declared by many to have been one of the greatest campaigns ever waged in South Carolina and there has been much jubilation among those interested in the movement over the wonderful victory won.

"The larger the percentage of crop the association signs, the more effective will be the results obtained," says a statement issued by the association in announcing a continuance of the campaign. "Those who do not sell their cotton through the association sell in competition with the association and against us. Naturally we want to get every bale in the association we can because it helps the situation for the farmers of the state that much. We believe that there are many farmers who are now ready to sign up. They will have the opportunity during the next three weeks of lining up with their brother farmers instead of lining up against them."

Massachusetts leads all the other states in the number of single women.

THROAT CUT ACROSS.

Charles M. Wilson Said to Have Killed Himself.

Manning, May 6.—Chas. M. Wilson killed himself, it is alleged, at his home near Summerton, this morning, about 6 o'clock. A pocket knife was the instrument used, his throat being slashed across. He was the youngest son of the late Capt. Thomas Wilson, and was about 45 years of age. There survives him a widow and young son.

ORNAN LODGE NO. 38, A. F. M., will hold a special communication on Friday night, May 12th, 8:00 o'clock, in its temple. M. M. degree to be conferred. By order of
W. T. JENNINGS T. DUCKER,
W. M. Sec.

MEETING OF TAXPAYERS.

A meeting of the taxpayers and voters of Bamberg school district No. 14 is hereby called to be held in the town hall in the town of Bamberg, S. C., on Monday, May 22nd, at 4 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of electing one member of the Board of Trustees, and for the transaction of any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

D. F. HOOTON,
Chairman Board of Trustees,
Bamberg, S. C., May 1, 1922. 5-11

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN BANKRUPTCY.

In the matter of F. K. Graham doing business as the Kirkland-Graham Furniture Company, Bankrupt.

To the Creditors of the said bankrupt:

Take notice that the above bankrupt has filed his petition for discharge and that a hearing will be had thereon on the 5 day of June, 1922, before said Court at Charleston, in said district, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, at which time and place all creditors and other persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have why the prayer of the said petitioner should not be granted.

RICHARD W. HUTSON,
5-25 Clerk.

WINTHROP COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AND ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

The examination for the award of vacant Scholarships in Winthrop College and for admission of new students will be held at the County Court House on Friday, July 7, at 9 a. m. Applicants must not be less than sixteen years of age. When Scholarships are vacant after July 1 they will be awarded to those making the highest average at this examination, provided they meet the conditions governing the award. Applicants for Scholarships should write to President Johnson before the examination for scholarship examination blanks.

Scholarships are worth \$100 and free tuition. The next session will open September 20, 1922. For further information and catalogue, address Pres. D. B. Johnson, Rock Hill, S. C.

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NOTICE OF TEACHERS' EXAMINATION.

The regular spring examination for teachers' certificates will be held at the court house in Bamberg, S. C., on Friday, May the 12th and Saturday, May the 13th, beginning promptly at 9 a. m. each day. The examination will cover primary licenses—first, second and third grade, and general elementary licenses—first, second and third grades. The examination for high school certificates will be held later. The usual subjects will be given at the examination on Friday and Saturday.

W. D. ROWELL,
County Supt. of Education.
April 22, 1822.

J. WESLEY CRUM, JR.

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