

Tolbert is Unfit, Says Sen. Dial

Washington, July 30.—Charging that Joseph W. Tolbert as Republican "referee" for South Carolina has been a "spoilsman of the worst class" and believing that he is "unsuited by nature, by training and by habits and is wanting in every proper manner the qualities to fulfill the duties of the high and responsible position to which the president has appointed him," Senator N. B. Dial today outlined the reasons behind his announced opposition to the selection of Tolbert to be marshal of the Western district of South Carolina.

"Tolbert," Senator Dial said, "is the South Carolina member of the Republican national committee, state chairman of that organization, and was recently appointed 'referee' for South Carolina for the present administration, that is, he is the chief distributor of patronage."

"I am not concerned about these positions, and would not interfere if I could, and could not if I would. They are simply party matters. The appointment to the position of marshal has to be confirmed by and with the advice and consent of the senate, and this is an entirely different proposition. When the president is of one political party and the senators of another party, there is no advice given in these appointments, when the office is not a bipartisan one, but when the name comes to the senate, we have to vote either to confirm or reject, hence we are responsible to this extent for all appointments confirmed by the senate."

"The public has a right to expect us to use all diligence and exercise our best judgment—stronger than this, they have a right to demand that we scrutinize most carefully all such appointees. I have received letters from friends on the subject, but I know most of this is propaganda and that many of them have been imposed upon."

Not Party Question.

"I do not fall out with people because they are Republicans, notwithstanding I think they show poor judgment in the south to belong to this party; I freely accord every man right to join whatever party he sees proper and to select his own companions, and if there are suitable individuals in their own ranks, it is their privilege to select them for political offices. Neither do I quarrel with the powers that be for appointing them."

"The appointee in this instance, Joseph W. Tolbert, is unsuited by nature, in training, and by habits, and is wanting in every proper manner the qualities to fulfill the duties of the high and responsible office to which the president has named him."

"I will not mention some unpleasant matters that will throw no particular light on the subject, but will only call to the minds of the people a few facts which confirm my opinion in the matter."

"Mr. Tolbert poses as a large farmer, whereas the record in Greenwood county shows that he does not pay a cent of taxes, except a dollar poll tax, and the records in the municipal, state and federal courts—both on the civil and criminal side—show that his record is an unenviable one. I do not mean to say that it is necessary for a man to own property to hold office; far be it from me to take any such position, but Tolbert is sailing under false colors."

"Mr. Tolbert's conduct since he has been appointed 'referee' has shown him to be a spoilsman of the worst class. For instance, under the practice of this administration in selecting postmasters, the civil service commission sends to the post office department the three names making the highest marks, and this department delegates to Tolbert—the 'referee'—the right to select whichever he chooses. These offices are not political ones, and in our state, the patrons are not one per cent. of Republicans, and the offices should be kept out of politics. However, under party rules, where they have a competent person, it is their privilege to appoint them, and we have made no objection."

"In these matters Tolbert has ruthlessly ignored the spirit of the civil service and has refused to recommend parties making the highest marks, except in a very few cases. He has almost universally ignored the claims of the ladies and ex-service men. Under the spirit of the civil service rules, ex-soldiers should receive the preference, but this has had no weight with Tolbert, even

where they make the highest marks. He has endeavored to turn lady postmasters out where they have been in office many, many years, and where they have made the highest marks. Moreover, he has turned out many fruitful officials—some who have served in this department for practically 40 years, and he named persons who were totally without experience—and these not Republicans either."

"In other words, he has run roughshod over our people and seems to be drunk with the power of a little authority."

"Worst of all, under previous administrations, I am informed that the 'referee' in our state sold patronage and that the universal charge was one-half of the first year's salary, and it is now claimed, and generally believed, that this practice is in vogue; the proof presented to me is unquestionable on the subject and is convincing beyond the peradventure of a doubt. The practice is to divide the state in districts and have someone in each district look after this part of the nefarious business. I am told of many instances where the offices were sold—one bribe \$750, another \$1,200, another \$600, another \$3,000, and different sums all around the state where there was competition. A recent case was reported, where \$1,200 was paid and the party failed to get the office, and after considerable wrangling, the funds were returned. It is alleged that appointees to small offices often have to contribute."

Rejected by Senate.

"One of Tolbert's 'referees' was recently rejected by the senate because he endeavored to get a lady postmaster to pay him \$300 to get her confirmed. An affidavit of one of his former followers states Tolbert admitted he expected to realize \$100,000 from this source."

"I can not condone the practice of buying an office, and if the competitors would cease bidding against each other, this most disgraceful practice could be obliterated. However, they are to be pitied for being forced to come in contact with such a corrupt system. It can readily be seen that someone will have to fill the office any way."

"Furthermore, I am told by the best authorities that Tolbert is by no means in sympathy with the enforcement of the prohibition law, and even has bragged to this effect. It is shown by affidavit that he had a barrel of liquor at one time. Many of his associates are among the most lawless class of our people, and it is commonly reported that he has formed a political combination with certain parties in our state calling themselves Democrats, to create a political machine, with the view and for the purpose of undermining, disrupting and destroying the Democratic party."

"It is generally believed that politics is rotten, and am sorry to admit there are some grounds for such opinions, particularly as to Republican administrations, and it is incumbent upon me and all other citizens who care for the maintenance and perpetuation of good government to expose and obliterate all fraud and corrupt practices in our power. No man shall have a government commission, with the approval—confirmation of the senate—to plunder our people if it is in my power to prevent it. Loving my state as I do, and feeling the pride of its reputation that I have always felt, I will not stand for the nomination one minute."

Tolbert Denies The Charges of Sen. Dial

Greenwood, July 31.—Emphatic denial that he was selling Republican patronage and denial of other charges brought by Senator Dial was made here tonight by Joseph W. Tolbert, Republican national committeeman for this state. Mr. Tolbert declared he was ready to defend himself in the courts against those who had accused him. Chairman Tolbert made a sweeping and comprehensive denial of the charges, taking them up one by one and in some cases submitting documents to substantiate his statements.

He said in part: "If Senator Dial has been as incorrectly informed in all the things he holds against me, as he has in the charges he makes, he is certainly more reckless in public statements than a lawyer and a United States senator should be."

"Take up his charges one by one: He charges that I have ignored the

Bitter Argument Ends in Killing

Aiken, July 30.—Following a bitter argument over politics Balfour Gregory, the mill hired constable of Warrenville, Horse Creek Valley, shot and almost instantly killed Cary Hatcher, a contractor for well boring, this morning about 10:30 o'clock in front of the mill's Polatty store at Warrenville. One shot was fired, it entering the back of Mr. Hatcher and piercing his heart. There has been much bitterness over the placing of the registration roll in the Warrenville manufacturing office instead of in some more convenient place, those opposed stating that the bookkeeper in the office did not keep hours that were suitable to many workers in the village, and it is charged by those opposed also that coercion was used in compelling women mill hands to sign the roll who did not desire to do so. This morning in arguing over the matter Gregory is alleged to have called Hatcher a vile name, that Hatcher resented it with a blow and turned to walk off when Gregory shot him to death.

Hundreds of excited people gathered from the mill villages in the valley about the dead body of Hatcher and were loud in their condemnation of the slaying.

Gregory gave himself up to Deputy Sheriff Nollie Robinson shortly after the killing and is now in the Aiken jail. He asked the sheriff to leave arms with his family for protection but was told by the officers that there was no need of doing so. It is claimed by E. L. Craig that Gregory drew his pistol at him threateningly after the killing of Hatcher.

civil service rules. The records show the contrary. I have recommended about 300 postmasters in South Carolina. They have all been from civil service recommendations. There are today 46 women postmasters in this state, or 11 more appointed by President Harding than by President Wilson. I deny that I have endeavored to turn out women postmasters. When the civil service office submits a list of three eligibles I am allowed to select one of the three. This is the rule all over the United States. In many cases I have asked Republican county chairmen for recommendations. In only one case can it be said that a woman was not retained in a post office in South Carolina. It was not my wish that she not be kept in office, but the county chairman and other white Republicans urged that the recommendation go to a white man, who was also on the eligible list. It was done, though personally it was a matter of regret that the woman could not be retained. Neither in this case nor in any other was there any money consideration, or hint of one.

Made By Two Republicans.

"The first charge of money was made by two Republicans of Orangeburg, who undertook to move heaven and earth to keep B. F. Mixson from being made postmaster. One of them wanted the postmastership for himself. The affidavit was sent to Senator Dial that Mixson had offered to secure confirmation for the woman postmaster at Bowman if she would pay him \$300. I got an affidavit from her that she did not know Mixson and had never been solicited by him to pay any money for any purpose. Further than that, I have a letter from her, received only a few days ago, expressing her sincere appreciation for getting the office. She is a Democrat and she made no promise to vote the Republican ticket. Why does not Senator Dial give some credit for this? These two Republicans, who are sore against me, Tolbert, because I refuse to recognize them, then made a turn. They sent Senator Dial an affidavit that a man named D. P. Berry made the offer to this lady. I got an affidavit from Berry, denying that he had ever acted as agent for Mixson and sent this to Senator Dial. Still he helped these Republicans and they thought they were making trouble for me. The whole truth was that one of them wanted the place himself, as he had been almost raised in the postoffice. I took pleasure in recommending for the place a young Democrat, Dan Dukes, who now has the place."

"I deny that I have refused to acknowledge the preference for soldiers who were on the civil service list and I have the record to show it."

"When Sen. Dial says that he is informed that under previous administrations the referee in this state sold patronage, I suppose he means

MISTAKES BOLT FOR GUN.

Murdock McCraney Tells Interesting Occurrence During Storm.

A rather interesting occurrence in connection with the violent thunder storm that swept Columbia Wednesday afternoon was related yesterday by Murdock McCraney, whose home, at 2315 Gadsden street was damaged by lightning.

Mr. McCraney said that he was adjusting the brakes on Luke Walter's automobile just before the storm. When it became evident that a deluge would be upon them in a short time, Mr. McCraney and his friend stopped their work and entered the house. To pass away the time, Mr. McCraney suggested that they examine his collection of firearms, of which he has quite a number. While inspecting an old flint lock, Mr. Walters, after having been assured that it was not loaded, pulled the trigger. Immediately there followed a brilliant flash of light that was naturally very surprising to Mr. McCraney, who was positive that the gun did not contain any powder.

About this time Mr. McCraney was called by his wife into the adjoining room, where they found the fireplace filled with soot and crumpled brick. It was found that a bolt of lightning had struck the chimney and had followed that route into the house.

The lightning must have struck the house simultaneously with Mr. Walters' pulling the trigger of the gun; hence the "spooky" circumstances surrounding the whole affair.—The State.

To Be Postmaster at Orangeburg.

Washington, July 28.—Dan K. Dukes was today nominated to be postmaster at Orangeburg, S. C. The previous nomination of Benjamin J. Mixson was rejected by the senate on data furnished by Senator Dial.

Republican administrations and if he does, the Republican administrations were represented in South Carolina by other Republicans than myself. The last referees in this state were the late John G. Capers and A. D. Webster. These Republicans will have to answer Senator Dial's charges. I had no say whatsoever in the matter of patronage when these two men were in charge of this state. I have had the power to make recommendations only since the 15th day of last March and I deny any charges that I have accepted any money or any promise of money from any applicant for office. If any county chairman has been guilty of taking even one dollar for his recommendation to me, it has been without my knowledge or consent and I would not countenance any such thing if I knew it.

No Such Thing Happened.

"I deny any instance of where any man paid \$1,200 to get an office and then had to use threats to get his money back when he failed to get the office. No such thing ever happened in the state in any office I had anything to do with."

"I am not a party to any office buying and it is very unfair to me for Senator Dial to rush into the papers with such charges with no facts to base his charges on."

"As to George D. Shore, of Sumter, there is no such organization as the Sumter Republican club. He is the club and he is sore because I would not recommend him to be postmaster at Sumter. I recommended a Democrat first and Shore tried to go over my head and get it anyhow, because he had influential relatives in Washington."

"He tried to have his son, George D. Shore, named as district attorney for the eastern district and I named Maj. J. D. E. Meyer, a veteran of the World war. That is why Mr. Shore is trying to discredit me. He is the Republican club of Sumter. I have letters today telling me what Mr. Shore is up to all by himself."

"I do not need the office of United States marshal for the western district of South Carolina. President Harding gave me the appointment without my asking for it. I feel that I owed it to him as well as myself that I defend myself against such charges as have been made against me. The attacks being made on me are being inspired by Republicans who have lost out in this state."

"Their faction is the one which put out a mixed electoral ticket in the last election. The Tolbert ticket was composed of white men exclusively. The Democratic papers of South Carolina persistently overlook this fact. All I want is to be fair. I can take care of myself in court or otherwise."

County Campaigners Appeal to the Voters of Ehrhardt

By far the largest crowd of the season attended the campaign meeting at Ehrhardt last Friday, when the candidates made their appeal for the suffrage of the people of that community. There were about 175 voters in Copeland's hall, and all of them were men, with the exception of one small girl and two or three little boys. The candidates were given a fine hearing. The voters seemed to be in dead earnest about the thing, not a single question was asked; the people leaving it entirely to the candidates to say their say and be done with it.

It was not near so hot in the hall as the folks thought it would be. A nice breeze was blowing, and as the hall has windows in every direction, it was rather pleasant at the meeting, which was presided over by H. W. Chitty.

Last week The Herald said that Camp Branch and Little Swamp folks were optimistic, and the same thing might be said of most Ehrhardt folks. Of course, there are some who predict things are going—already gone, in fact—to the demdition bow wows, but it seemed to this writer that a majority of the people think the worst has come and gone.

Oh, yes, there are some boll weevils around Ehrhardt; there's some cotton that won't make over two bales to the acre, but most folks seem to think that the crop is so much better than last year that they have great cause, so far, for rejoicing.

Ehrhardt Favored Section.

As a matter of fact, Ehrhardt, like Little Swamp, has received much favor this year. Cotton looks fine; it has a fine weed and it has lots of full grown bolls on it. Some farmers talked with are of the opinion that there is such a fine crop of blossoms and young squares on hand that all of the grown bolls will escape puncturing—that is, generally speaking. It is said that the weevils won't bother large bolls as long as there are blossoms and little bolls to eat on, or bore in, rather.

Corn is good, too; in fact it is fine. There are some fine fields of tobacco down that way; peas, beans, sugar cane, all look good.

There was a stalk of cotton grown by S. W. Copeland on exhibition at the bank which contained 20 full grown bolls. Of this number two or three had been punctured; where punctured a boll is partially damaged.

The road to Ehrhardt is, we believe, the best road in Bamberg county; that is, the best road that has been traveled over for some time. It has held up well under travel, and whenever it is scraped it is simply fine. Dave Kinard and his scraper were at work Friday morning, putting the road into good condition. This writer considers this road far superior to the Columbia-Savannah highway through the county. We do not know the cost of the road to Ehrhardt, but we don't have any idea it cost more than half of the Columbia-Savannah highway, which pulled Bamberg county for nearly \$3,000 a mile with government aid.

After some introductory remarks by the chairman, Rev. Mr. Ballentine, of the Lutheran church, offered a most appropriate prayer asking that God's guidance be upon the meeting and the speakers. A letter was read from "Uncle Joe" Zeigler stating that he was unable to be present at the meeting.

Supervisors Come First.

G. Victor Kears then was introduced as a candidate for supervisor. Mr. Kears missed the Camp Branch meeting the week before. If elected, said Mr. Kears, he promised an administration of economy and good roads. His opponents are both good men and he has not a word to say against either of them, but he has always had an ambition to serve his county in this office. The county has a system of good roads, but he reminded his hearers that Mr. Smoak had enjoyed a large sum of federal aid during his term, which other supervisors had not had. He promised, if elected, to see that full value is received from every dollar spent. He said that it had been talked that if he were elected, his health would not permit him to attend to the duties of the office, but he said that, thanks to the Maker, his health had been greatly improved, and that it is now better than in many years and he felt fully able to attend to

the office. He will appreciate the office if elected.

A. B. Hightower did not make a speech, but said that if he is elected he will serve the county to the best of his ability. He thanked the voters in advance for their support.

Supervisor Smoak was then called to the floor. Mr. Smoak said he had served the people the very best he could during the past two years, and he feels that the people are satisfied with his record. He reminded Mr. Kears that his predecessor had enjoyed federal aid as well as he had. He had fought hard to get every dollar of government money possible for the county; in fact he had spent \$30 of his own money on visits to Columbia in behalf of the Charleston-Augusta road. He looks after the county's interests and tries to get full value for all money spent. He reiterated that so long as he is supervisor the chain gang will be out of politics. He did not intend to confer any special privileges. He used the gang where he thought it was most needed, and will continue this policy. It is impossible to work all the roads at once, but in a few years with conservative management the county will have a road system of which to be proud.

Commissioners Orate.

W. H. Collins, for upper district county commissioner, said that he served the county two years ago, when he was defeated by Mr. Tant. He depends entirely on God, and if elected everything he does will be done with a singleness of purpose to serve his Master. Was overseer of 32 hands in the old days when people worked the roads instead of paying road tax. The money belongs to the people and ought to be used where it comes from. Some roads have never been worked, and he will see that such roads are worked if he is elected. He wound up by saying that he loves everybody, saved and sinners.

J. S. Tant thanked the voters for the handsome support given him at Ehrhardt two years ago. When money is paid out he sees where it goes. He knows the roads of the county thoroughly as he travels them in a truck all the time, and he knows where work is needed most. He has tried his best to look after the people's money, and will continue to do so if reelected. Has no special privileges to hand out to anybody. He has personally repaired many bridges, paying all expenses therefor out of his own pocket. He will appreciate another two years in office.

The Lower District Now.

J. B. McCormick for the lower district, said he had no record, but he will do his duty if elected. "I am no speaker, but if you are looking for the man to do the work, vote for me." Ticket has two short names and one long name; scratch the short ones.

G. W. Hunter is developing more and more into an orator, as meetings continue. He reminded the folks that his father was elected sheriff four times and his brother representative twice. He has always lived on the farm, and plows his own mule. He knows nothing but farming and road building. Was born "almost in Fish Pond," and has lived in the county 50 years. Mr. Hunter thinks more attention should be paid to neighborhood roads, some of which are so grown up with bushes that it is difficult to haul fodder and cotton to market. Said road money was paid in his section, but his road did not get any attention, also told about some bridge work near his home that it took much time and trouble to fix. Says he will be elected, but would like to have as many votes as possible just to get a big majority.

Auditor Rawell made a short talk, in which he reviewed the financial condition of the county, making the statement that on July 1 \$46,500 in taxes remained unpaid in this county. The county had on hand July 1 about \$52,000 for all purposes, some of which was money "borrowed on a short term note for road work."

Now Comes the Magistrates.

L. G. Yalley, candidate for reelection as magistrate, stands on the same platform he did two years ago. Has filled the office according to what he believed was the right manner. Has made mistakes, but none that was intentional. He has administrated the law fairly. He is not respon-

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