

Last County Campaign

Meeting Held on Friday.

(Continued from page 1, column 6.)

will beat anybody and everybody on August 29th.

For the Upper District.

J. S. Tant, incumbent for the upper district, told the voters that he has given fair and honest service in the office during the 19 months he has been there, and promised to continue to give the same attention if elected again. He is on the roads every day, and is in position to know their condition. He thanked the voters of Bamberg for their handsome vote two years ago.

W. H. Collins was the last speaker for commissioner. He was glad to see the women present; he considers they were sent by the Lord. He has lived in the county 62 years, and always did business in Bamberg until a few years ago, and still does some of his business here. He had rendered good service to the county when he held the office, though he was handicapped by high prices; lumber being worth \$80 a thousand and hams demanding \$3 a day; thus much needed work could not be done. He wants one more term. He was unable to canvass the county, he said, because of sickness in his home, but he will appreciate the votes of the people.

Riley for Tax Reform.

Hon. W. L. Riley, who has represented Bamberg county in the legislature eight years, said that the county has always sent good men to the house, but they could have been of better value to the county had they stayed longer, their influence would have been greater. With this introduction, he launched at once into the tax question. Last year, he said, taxes had been the highest in history—adding in a vein of plausibility, the year Mr. Kearse was sent to the house. In good times, said Mr. Riley, we sought to better ourselves, and voted right along for additional taxes and bonds; all these things are good and well, but he feels that the time has arrived when we must economize. He referred to the Bamberg school bond election, which had just voted three and a half mills taxes on the district. He said that of the 72 mills taxes in Bamberg, only twelve go to the state, and three mills of that come back in direct appropriations, while the rest is spent here at home. He told of the work of the last legislature in reducing taxes, stating that the county taxes had been reduced as well as state taxes; the road tax had been lowered from five to two dollars, and the road levy had been reduced from two and one-half to one and one-half mills, and he advocated taking this off when present road work is completed, and only using the gang. He favors the elimination of every possible salary and the combining of boards where it is possible. Too much money is spent by the colleges, he declared. During the war all state departments expended, but he feels where anything can be taken off, it should be taken off now.

With all of this paring, however, real relief must come from tax reform. By eliminating the salaries of all state officers and members of boards and commissions, a person in Bamberg paying taxes on \$1,000 worth of property instead of paying the \$72 he pays now would still pay \$71, and this relief would be negligible. What he had worked for as a member of the ways and means committee was a real relief to the merchants, farmers and business men by reducing the tax on visible property and putting it on the big business interests which have escaped their just proportion of taxes. All of the reform bills had been introduced by his committee, and the house had passed the entire programme, but the senate had killed some of them.

Mr. Riley feels that his service on the ways and means committee puts him in a position to render his country good service. He has been on this committee four years and vice chairman of it two years, and if sent back to the house there is a strong possibility of his being made chairman. This, he said, is a position he covets, and accounts for his being in the race this year. He read a letter from the chairman of this committee, which stated that Mr. Riley had proposed the appropriation for the state superintendent of education's office of the amounts expended by that department in 1921, and also that Mr. Riley had instigated the 10 per cent reduction in salaries, which had been adopted. Between three and four hundred thousand dollars had been saved in appropriations in this manner. He also read a letter from the state tax commission, replying to an inquiry from him, stating that the action of the commission in allowing land assessment in this county to remain as it was, was due entirely to the showing made at the meeting of citizens. Mr. Riley said that he would not take one iota of credit away from Mr. Kearse that is due him, and only mentioned this matter

after Mr. Kearse had referred to him at Olar, and had stated that he, Mr. Kearse, was responsible for the reduction. Mr. Riley said that he had offered his services to the auditor in this matter, but there was nothing to be done as the commission had already agreed to come to Bamberg.

Mr. Riley suggested that Mr. Kearse be asked, if he was so much opposed to commissions and boards, why he did not introduce a bill to kill some of them. He feels that his qualifications are such that he can represent the county with some degree of honor. He promised to give the best service that is in him. He closed amid considerable applause.

Kearse Scores High Taxes.

Hon. J. C. Kearse was well received at his home club. He complimented the ladies, and urged them to exercise their new privilege and duty of voting in the primary. He said that it was not necessary for him to tell all of the things he had done, but that he would mention some of them. He freely admitted that he had not tried to enact many laws, for we have too many of them now; what we need is fewer laws and simpler laws. Mr. Kearse then entered into the tax question. He went to the legislature when appropriations and prices were at their peak, he said, but feels the time has come when something must be done to lower expenses. Mr. Kearse said Mr. Riley failed to mention that the second year he (Mr. Kearse) was in the house the greatest reduction ever made in taxes had been effected. He had worked consistently for these reductions; in fact he had talked low taxes so much that he had been called a low tax crank, but he feels with conditions as they are now he is justified in his position.

Mr. Kearse says he is a believer in local self-government. He feels the people of Bamberg county are well able to take care of their own affairs without the assistance of the centralized boards and commissions in Columbia. He takes issue with Mr. Riley as to the saving to be effected by killing the commissions, etc., and told of the amounts these boards and commissions are costing the state; the welfare board getting \$30,000 for visiting the counties, making an inspection and issuing a report with recommendations only; the tax commission costing \$87,000; the highway commission over \$100,000, and the board of health \$177,000. He does not object to the highway commission, if properly operated, as it is necessary under the federal aid provisions. A small appropriation would not be objectionable; no one would kick if the health department hired a good doctor and gave him a clerk or two and furnished him with free serum, all of which ought not to cost more than \$15,000. But the tax commission he does not stand for at all. Our local assessors know our lands far better than men in Columbia. Our appropriations have gone up from one to six and a half millions, and it is time to stop.

The tax reform, said Mr. Kearse, had resulted from the appointment of a joint committee of three from the house and three from the senate, who had investigated the matter and made their report. He favors all of the tax reform bills, but he favors more than adjustment of the tax burden. If reelected he will continue his work to hold down appropriations. Our county, said Mr. Kearse, is in good financial condition, better perhaps than any county in the state. He had helped to reduce our county taxes by 35 per cent. He desires it understood that though he is for strict economy and lower taxes, he does not favor cutting out any essential; he believes in liberal pensions for the Confederate veterans, and is a strong advocate of the schools; we must educate our children, he said.

He favors tightening up the labor law so as to give the farmer protection against his laborers forsaking him during cultivation and gathering season. He favors retaining all of the auto license money in the county. Regarding the land assessment matter, he said, naturally the tax commission would not admit that it was afraid of him—this in regard to the letter to Mr. Riley, a copy of which had been sent to him. He said that it was a fact that Mr. Riley did not get the commission to some here, and he chided Mr. Riley for not taking as much interest in the assessment matter then as he is now. He does not claim all the credit, he said, but he feels that he had some part in it. Mr. Kearse closed amid much applause.

All of the candidates were well received, and all received more or less applause during and at the close of their speeches.

So far as campaign meetings are concerned, it is now all over but the shouting.

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You'll never let up kissing a Beau-

fort girl,

Until all your kissing's gone.

Notice of Primary Elec-

tion August 29.

For the purpose of nominating candidates for state officers, a congressman, and county officers, notice is hereby given, pursuant to the rules of the Democratic Party of South Carolina, that a direct Primary Election will be held in Bamberg County, August 29th, 1922, and the following named managers have been appointed by the County Executive Committee to conduct the election at the several Democratic Clubs, to wit:

Bamberg—E. L. Price, Sr., H. D. Free, and L. C. Price, Managers. J. W. Folk, Clerk. Election to be held at the Court House.

Colston—G. W. Kearse, G. W. Beard and Perry Lee N. Millan, Managers. C. M. Varn, Clerk. Election to be held at the Colston School Building.

Denmark—T. P. McCrae, R. A. Goolsby, and W. H. Cain, Managers. James Wiggins, Clerk. Election to be held at the Sandifer Store Building.

Edisto—Hubert Herndon, B. C. Kinsey, and Jeanny Dempsey, Managers. Clayton Jolly, Clerk. Election to be held at Farrell's Store Building.

Embree—L. E. Cooner, J. J. England, and Clarence Irvin Hughes, Managers. James M. Watterson, Clerk. Election to be held at the Embree School Building.

Ehrhardt—H. W. Chitty, I. D. Copeland, and J. E. McMillan, Managers. W. R. Copeland, Clerk. Election to be held at Copeland Hall.

Govan—R. L. Lancaster, Joseph Gunnells, Jr., and Clifton Eubanks, Managers. Stoney Kennedy, Clerk. Election will be held at the Govan School Building.

Kearse—G. E. Kearse, J. S. Breland, and L. M. Ayer, Managers. J. O. Ritter, Clerk. Election to be held at the Kearse Store Building.

Lees—J. C. Kemp, H. A. Cave, and F. L. Cox, Managers. J. W. Grimes, Clerk. Election to be held at the store building of J. W. Grimes.

Little Swamp—J. Z. Harrison, Jr., R. M. Goodwin, and Q. H. Miley, Managers. J. C. Goodwin, Clerk. Election to be held at the Little Swamp School House.

Midway—Q. H. Sandifer, B. D. Donalds, and J. P. O'Quinn, Managers. Gilmore Simms, Clerk. Election to be held at the store building of Q. H. Sandifer.

Hightower's Mill—E. H. Hartzog, J. W. Hightower, and W. B. Gillam, Managers. L. W. Abstine, Clerk. Election to be held at Hightower's Mill Building.

Hunter's Chapel—N. H. Fender, Arnold Walker, and David M. Smoak, Managers. Horace Rentz, Clerk. Election to be held at Hunter's Chapel School House.

Olar—G. M. Neely, H. F. Starr, and G. O. Barker, Managers. E. C. Barker, Clerk. Election to be held at store building of H. H. Kearse.

Springtown—G. Marion McMillan, G. W. Warren, and M. J. Free, Managers. R. L. Kearse, Clerk. Election to be held at Duncanville School Building.

Pursuant to a resolution passed by the County Executive Committee, the voters of the clubs of Bamberg and Midway will vote for Magistrate at the Town of Bamberg; the voters of the clubs of Denmark, Lees and Hightower's Mill will vote for Magistrate at Denmark; the voters of the clubs of Olar, Govan, Springtown and Colston will vote for Magistrate at the Town of Olar; the voters of the clubs of Embree, Edisto, Hunter's Chapel and Little Swamp will vote for Magistrate in Fishpond Township, and the voters of the clubs of Ehrhardt and Kearse will vote for Magistrate at Ehrhardt.

The voters of the clubs of Bamberg, Midway, Embree, Edisto, Hunter's Chapel and Little Swamp will vote for cotton weigher at Barberg; the voters of the clubs of Denmark, Lees, and Hightower's Mill will vote for cotton-weigher at Denmark; the voters of the clubs of Olar, Govan, Springtown, and Colston will vote for cotton-weigher at Olar, and the voters of the clubs of Ehrhardt and Kearse will vote for cotton weigher at Ehrhardt.

Under resolution of the County Executive Committee, J. S. Tant and W. H. Collins, candidates for County Commissioner, were declared to be in the Upper District, and G. W. Hunter, J. B. McCormack, and J. W. Zeigler, candidates for County Commissioner, were declared to be in the Lower District. The voters of the entire County will vote for one person for the Upper District and one for the Lower District.

Under the rules of the Democratic

Party and the law of South Carolina, all clubs having an enrollment of fifty (50) voters or more are required to conduct the election according to the Australian Ballot Act. Therefore, the election at all clubs

except Midway, Lees, Hightowers' Mill and Springtown, under the law, will have to be conducted according to the provisions of the Australian Ballot Act, and each club will require one booth for every one hundred enrolled voters, or a majority fraction thereof.

Under the rules, the polls will be opened at eight (8) o'clock, a. m., and close at four (4) o'clock, p. m. The managers are requested to

designate one of their number to procure the ballots and ballot-boxes from the Secretary of the County Executive Committee, W. D. Rowell, at Bamberg.

The County Executive Committee will assemble at the Court House, Bamberg, S. C., at 12 o'clock, noon, on the 31st day of August, 1922, to tabulate the returns and declare the results of the Primary.

There will be a second Primary for

the nomination of Officers not nominated in the first Primary, to be held the 12th day of September, which Primary will be held under the rules and regulations of the first Primary and the Managers named for the first Primary will act as Managers for the second Primary.

J. F. CARTER,
County Chairman.
Bamberg, South Carolina, August
14, 1922.



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