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Why Smalls was Defeated.

BEAUFORT, November 6.—I have been curious to ascertain and to estimate some of the principal causes that have contributed to Small's defeat, and find no difficulty in reconciling it with the steady loss of popularity and influence he has been experiencing for some time past. It is instructive as showing what an habitation giddy and unsure hath he that buildeth on the vulgar heart.

There was a time when there was none found rash enough to oppose Small's even for nomination in his own party; now there are any number of his former adherents that not only criticise his acts, pronounce his faults, but presume even to dispute title to office with him, to interrupt him rudely on the stump, and even openly to condemn him when occasion requires. It is a great change, attributable to the dissemination of educational advantages among his race under Democratic rule.

Foremost among the causes that in this campaign at least have injuriously affected him must not be omitted the light-colored distinction that, through his sanction, if not his dictation, was enforced in the late distribution of office in the county in the last Republican Nominating Convention. The effect of this is very clearly indicated by the diminished number of the colored voters who presented themselves at the polls at this election, in comparison with the triple or quadruple numbers in former campaigns. Especially offensive must have been the exclusion of black candidates on the county ticket to the voters of St. Helena Island, where the votes as compared with previous elections scarcely reached half its usual number, caused no doubt by the disaffection of Representative Sheppard and his followers, who were ostracised in the Nominating Convention on account of their dark color, a light-colored Beaufort man being put in his place. The same feeling no doubt prejudiced the simon-pure black voters in other parts of the district as well as in other parts of the county, and kept the black people at Sheldon from the polls because of the slight to Mitchell, their favorite. The same feeling no doubt influenced the apathy and indifference of "Redhot Joe Robinson," hitherto one of the most mouthed and faithful partisans of his party, who went down to Bluffton in the interest of the Republican nominee to Congress and who went coon hunting the night before the election, and no doubt will say that he followed his game too far to admit of his returning in time to see the polls opened. Certain it is, whether through inattention to Small's interest or to avoid having Col. Elliott poll a full Democratic vote, he brought back a fifteen pound coon after the election was over, and which was all he had to show for his services at that precinct, which it is now said went by default. It now transpires that he seduced the managers into the same sport by telling them he had "a good coon dog," and as there is no telling the distance that we will wander from the main chance on a moonlight night in Southern woods when the dog trees a possum or a coon it can be easily accounted for why the polls at Bluffton were not opened.

Joe tells it now that he bought a coon but Small's cant be persuaded but that after he started out on a cold trail, Joe finally ran up a gum tree himself or hid himself in a hollow. At all events Joe will never go on a "raccoon" hunt again where Small's is concerned.

Another case of enmity to Smalls, but for which I shall say he is really not to blame, is his having foselosed a mortgage of the property of a society in town which the principal and highly respectable old time maumas had formed for mutual benefit and help during sickness. It seems that that Benevolent Society of the First African Baptist Church had accumulated property and built upon their lot a society hall. The president of the secretary and the treasurer, three colored leaders in the church without consulting the society of confiding colored sisters mortgaged the premises to Smalls for about \$1,100 and made a way with the funds obtained. When to the utter astonishment of the sisters the mortgage became due, Smalls as matter of self-protection foreclosed the mortgage. Very naturally the sisters were indensed, but instead of visiting their wrath upon the defaulting fiduciary officers in whom they had for a number of years reposed trust, they ascribed all

their woes to the active energy of Smalls who had invoked the law and consigned their accumulated savings to the hammer. Without discussing all that the suspicious old sisters feel and say about the transaction, they were down upon Smalls, who, they said made his money easy and could afford to let up on them even if the surreptitious transaction between the officers and himself was altogether square. In consequence the old women no doubt exercised their influence upon the church brethren and caused many to absent themselves from the polls. In candor I must say that I do not think that Smalls is as much to blame as the good old souls, who have undoubtedly lost their money seem to think. At the lowest calculation he must have lost at least 90 to 100 votes from this cause alone.

Another cause that has operated against Smalls and would have operated against any Republican candidate, was that heretofore the leaders and speakers were prodigal of promises as to what the Republican party would do for the colored voters if Smalls were elected, commencing with forty acres and a mule through repaying the losses by the Freedman's Bank down to any number of offices to be distributed wholesale among the faithful, none of which promises have been fulfilled. In this campaign the speakers avoided making any promises whatever and admitted that being in the minority they could do nothing and with a Democratic administration, which they said would be indefinitely protracted, they could expect nothing through a Republican Representative. "This killed Smalls with the most blatant of his coadjutors. When he could make no promises even they took little interest in the campaign specially when all the former predictions against a Democratic administration as affecting the colored people's political rights have been found unfulfilled. His majority was further diminished by an indifference amounting to apathy.

There is still another cause which has undoubtedly deterred many of the colored people from coming up to the polls some even pretending that they had lost their registration certificates. It is said that a great many of the younger voters have been under the impression that when they voted, their neglected liability to pay their poll tax was traceable, and that the poll lists could be used by the constables and informers to report delinquents. This has, no doubt caused most of the youths who have attained their majority since the last election to refrain from registering and has, also prevented a large percentage of voters from reminding the tax collector of their existence by coming to the polls.

The leaders are beginning to say: "We said so all the time that Smalls was the weakest candidate we could have put up," and "that it was a mistake on their part not to have nominated Johnson or any other professed Republican." But they are unmindful of some of the reasons I have just given, which would equally have operated against any Republican they could have chosen. Others say: "There is no use of crying over spilt milk and if they could not elect Smalls they prefer Col. Elliott, and are glad that Beaufort will be represented by him in Congress."

T. G. W.

Will It Ever Be Tried

EDGEFIELD, C. H., November 9.—The case of the State against Wm Parkman and about twenty defendants or as it is commonly termed the Culbreath lynching case was called for trial here this morning in the Court of General Sessions Judge Pressley presiding. The State was represented by Attorney General Miles and Solicitor R. G. Bonham, the appearances for the defence being Senator M. C. Butler and W. T. Gary of Augusta.

Upon the call of the case Mr. Miles said that after a conference with the solicitor he was prepared to announce that the State was ready to go into the case and asked that a day be fixed for the trial. Senator Butler in behalf of the defendants then moved for a postponement of the case to the March term of sessions on three principal grounds: First, the absence of Governor Sheppard, the leading counsel in the case, and who could not possibly be present on account of official duties elsewhere; second, the illness of several of the defendants and their consequent inability to attend the trial; and lastly, the absence of material witness and without

whom the defendants could not safely go to trial. In support of his position Senator Butler asked leave to read several documents, one of them being a letter under date of November 8, from Governor Sheppard stating that he would be unable to attend. This he regretted very much as some of the defendants had already paid him a large proportion of his counsel fees and for that reason they were naturally anxious that he should represent them personally. He did not think that the continuance of the case would work any hardship to the State or involve the county in extraordinary expenses or any other inasmuch as the defendants were all on good and sufficient bail. Senator Butler further urged that in the absence of Governor Sheppard the case could not be defended with the necessary degree of care that was desirable, inasmuch as Governor Sheppard was best informed as to the interests of the defendants from the fact that he, of all the counsel for the defence was most familiar with the merits of the case. To deprive the accused of such a counsel, at such a time would he thought result most unfortunately if not fatally. Senator Butler then produced about a dozen affidavits, all tending to prove reasonable causes for the absence of witnesses. He had no doubt whatever that he could bring all the grounds on which he asked for the postponement if it was desired.

Attorney General Miles urged that the trial proceed. He thought it best for the State and for the defendants, for witnesses and for counsel. He could not, however agree with Senator Butler that the mere absence of some of the defendants would be a sufficient ground for a postponement. It would of course preclude the trial of the absent defendants but the case could go on as to several of the others. He thought that the sufficiency of the ground of delay on account of the absence of Governor Sheppard was a matter entirely within the discretion of the Court.

After a short argument by counsel on each side on the points above indicated he Judge said that the case was an extraordinary one on both sides and he felt a grave responsibility in the matter. It was of the greatest importance that the docket should be cleared and it was with that in view that the Legislature had passed an Act providing that the Edgefield Court should be held after the Richland Sessions, in order that there should be no embarrassment either to Counsel for the want of sufficient time. He was the more anxious he said that the case should be tried because there would be involved in the proceedings some points requiring mature judgment. He regretted therefore that at the next term of the Court there would preside in the place of Judge Cothran some lawyer elected to fill the position, and no matter how distinguished or able he might be still he would be unable to handle a case of the kind under discussion.

In reference to the absence of Governor Sheppard, Judge Pressley held that there was no precedent to warrant him in holding it to be a good ground for a postponement of the trial in case other able and distinguished counsel were present. As to the absence of the witnesses he ruled that a continuance would be granted if the defendants submitted affidavits stating that the witnesses would prove, and the prosecution refused to admit such proposed proof as a part of the testimony. But the most important aspect of the situation, Judge Pressley said was as to whether the prosecution intended to sever the case.

Mr. Miles then said that he and solicitor were of the opinion that the determination should not be announced until the trial was about to proceed. He stated that the affidavits read by Senator Butler showed that the very two of defendants, Parkman and Holmes who the State had determined to try first in case a severance was had, were unable to go to trial.

Judge Pressley then ruled that unless a severance was had the defendants were entitled to a continuance on the showing made.

Mr. Miles, however declined to make the announcement as to whether a severance would be made and the most especially he said because such a determination, made a part of the record might possibly embarrass his successor in office.

Judge Pressley then marked the case continued and it goes over as unfinished

business to its fourth term on the Edgefield docket.

The Jones murder trial has been fixed for Monday next at noon.

Mr. Miles left here to-night for Columbia where he will meet the board of State canvassers to-morrow. M. F. T.

Major Mills Finds Railroad Building Up-Hill Work.

Major Julius Mills, president of the Chester, Greenwood and Abbeville Railroad Company, informed me to-day that the corps of surveyors would reach the Savannah River in about two weeks. He also said that the corps of surveyors between this place and Monroe, N. C., had reached the North Carolina line, and would get to Monroe in about a week. The surveyors will survey another line from the Savannah River, and another line from Monroe back to Chester. The president has positive assurances that other first mortgage bonds of the road, when placed upon the market, will be taken by railroad capitalists, and with the money obtained from the sale of the bonds he can and will build the road. He complains of not receiving that support from the moneyed men of Chester that he had a right to expect. Some of our wealthiest citizens, he says, have not subscribed a cent. He also finds considerable opposition to township subscriptions in aid of the road, which he regards as very unwise in view of the fact that the road when built will add to the taxable property of the county, enhance the value of land and developed the resources of the country along the line of road to such an extent as in a few years will cover the amounts subscribed by the townships. Major Mills is full of energy and enterprise, and it is believed he will build his road notwithstanding the many serious obstacles in the way.

The Farmers' Convention

According to appointment, the caucus of delegates to the Farmers' Convention met yesterday morning at 10 o'clock at the Court House to arrange the preliminaries for the convention. They were in session only a few minutes, however, and the only action taken was to nominate Senator W. J. Talbert of Edgefield for temporary chairman of the convention.

Subsequent to the caucus the delegates proceeded to Agricultural Hall, and at 12 M. were called to order by Captain B. R. Tillman, who stated that he would assume that duty in view of the fact that he was the Chairman of the Executive Committee appointed at the April convention. He stated that owing to his having been called upon to frequently speak through the state the past Summer, he had acquired some what a facility for extemporaneous speaking, but that as he could not follow his subject with that force of statement and logical substance that he observed in his writing, he would not attempt to address the convention extemporaneously. He therefore, had written an address, and would read it before the convention. He then read the address, which, to begin with, alludes to the success with which the effort to organize a farmers' movement had met, notwithstanding the opposition the undertaking had received from the beginning. That opposition came usually from those who held fast to the public text and it was natural for them to sneer when they felt it slipping from their teeth. [Applause] He said, however, that despite the cold water thrown on the movement it would be a success and would result in unbounded benefit to the agricultural interests of the State, which, he was sorry to confess, had gone down year by year until the situation was appalling. The organization of the farmers would unite them, and by their meetings and the efficacious plans they would certainly devise the gloom would be dispelled and the agriculture of the State be put on a healthy footing. If nothing else the methods of our agriculture would be changed and something done to avert absolute ruin. The farmers, he stated, were ground to powder between the millstones of Western competition on the one hand and borrowing money at a high rate of interest with which to make their crops on the other. The organization of the farmers would go far towards remedying that might evil which threatened to overwhelm the agriculture of this State.

It had been charged, he said, that the farmers' movement was a political one,

but it had no more politics in it than the farmers of the State had a right to assimilate with it. He himself was opposed to mixing politics with the movement if the farmers could get their right without it, but that the farmers intended to right their wrongs, and that was all they asked. [Applause] The political features of the movement were to call attention to the needs of the farmers and place the situation as it is before those in authority. He felt pretty sure then their demands would be heeded, and in case they got what they wanted they would be satisfied, but should they not receive the relief they ask at the proper hands they would rise in their and take what they wanted. [Applause] He thought, however, that they would get all they asked, and stated as one result of the movement numbers of members had been elected to the Legislature pledged to their ideas of reform.

The principal thing the farmers asked was the reduction of the taxes which burden him, and adoption of a less expensive system in conducting the government of the State. They wanted abolished all offices which had been established for old fossils and broken down gentry, and he predicted that something in this line would be done when the Legislature meets. [Applause.] He protested that his remarks cast no reflection on present incumbents, but were intended to call attention to useless offices now existing under our government.

He advocated the total divorce of the Agricultural Department from politics, and wants it placed into hands to which it properly belongs, namely, practical, experienced farmers. The demand of the farmers was that the Agricultural Department, belonging by rights to them, should be turned over to them. [Applause.] He maintained that farmers were intelligent enough to manage their affairs, and that if the leading men in the ranks would come to the front and consult they would not have to go to lawyers to know how get their politics and be told how to vote.

The establishment of an Agricultural College, said he, would go far towards giving educated farmers to the State, and would disseminate that scientific and practical knowledge which the State so much needed. He remarked that he had a letter from General Stephen D. Lee, in which the General informed him that a college similar to the Agricultural College of Mississippi would cost, exclusive of the grounds and experimental farm, \$100,000. Captain Tillman believed that the \$20,000 raised from the privilege tax on fertilizers and the fund arising from the land script, in addition to a small appropriation from the State, would be ample to support the college and have all the work done that is now done by the Agricultural Department.

In conclusion he urged conservatism upon the farmers in their demands, and expressed his confidence in legislation to remedy the evils they complain of. If these wrongs were not righted they would be on hand two years hence, and see that they would not be bamboozled, in the next choice of officials. [Applause.]

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONVENTION.

At the conclusion of Captain Tillman's remarks the organization of the convention was proceeded with. In pursuance of the action of the caucus, Senator Talbert was unanimously chosen as Chairman Dr. W. P. Adison of Abbeville Mr. J. T. Duncan of Newberry were elected Secretaries.

A resolution was then offered that the convention proceed to enroll the delegates by Counties.

It was voted that only those delegates be enrolled who were present, but upon a motion by Captain Tillman to enroll the delegates as they were elected from the Counties, subject to changes by the Committee on Credentials, the first motion was withdrawn. Some of the Counties elected more delegates than they were entitled to under the call for the convention, and it was necessary to remedy this matter. On motion, it was agreed that the Committee on Credentials be composed of a delegates from each of the County delegates and that each delegation appoint its own committee-man. After a conference of the delegation the following Committee on Credentials was announced; Abbeville—A. W. Jones.

The Committee on Credentials then had a conference and authorized the en-

rollment of the following delegates as entitled to seats:

Abbeville—J. L. White, W. P. Addison, A. W. Jones, R. W. Haddon, J. T. Shelton.

Upon completing the roll of delegates further proceedings were deferred until 7.30 at night. An adjournment was therefore taken about 2 o'clock until that time.

THE NIGHT SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment the convention met again last night at 7.30 o'clock. Senator Talpert, the temporary President, announced that the next step to be taken by the convention was a permanent organization. It was resolved first to elect a permanent presiding officer, and nominations were announced in order.

Mr. D. K. Norris was nominated and received the unanimous vote of the convention.

PREAMBLE.

We the farmers of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, recognizing the wisdom of the saying that in union there is strength have determined to form an organization for our mutual protection and benefit.

Its objects shall be the promotion of all branches of agriculture and the inauguration of a more rational and remunerative system of farming. These ends are to be secured by organizing agricultural clubs throughout the State to meet and discuss the situation, and bring the influence of the organized farmers to bear upon the State government so as to obtain, protection against fraud and imposition, and to secure that fostering care so imperatively demanded by our languishing agricultural interest.

While we shall as much as possible eschew politics, legislation which affects the farmers injuriously or overlooks them entirely will be our first care till a remedy be had. We claim the right to do this as citizens and taxpayers and invoke the assistance of all classes and professions in securing reform in our government and in placing our agricultural interests on a more secure and prosperous foundation.

To this end we have adopted the following:

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be known as the Farmers' Association of South Carolina.

ART. II. The officers of this Association shall be all President, seven Vice-Presidents—one from each Congressional District—a Secretary and Treasurer and an Executive Committee of nine—one from each Congressional District and two at large—all to be chosen by the members of this Association at the annual meeting in November, and to hold their offices for one year, or until their successors are duly elected; provided, that the Executive Committee hold their office one, two and three years, three being elected annually.

The first committee shall determine by lot the length of their respective terms.

ART. III. The President shall have a general supervision of the affairs of the Association; shall preside at its meetings, preserve order; and regulate its discussions according to ordinary parliamentary rules' and shall be *ex officio* a member of all committees. In his absence one of the Vice Presidents shall act.

The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Association, keep a record of its proceedings, as also those of the Executive Committee, and attend to the correspondence.

The Treasurer shall receive and keep an account of all funds, and pay out the same by order of the President counter signed by the Secretary, making an annual report of such receipts and expenditures to the Association.

ART. IV. The Executive Committee shall have the general management and control of all business of the Association, shall prepare and issue a programme for its annual meetings, and make all needs arrangements therefor. They shall take whatever steps they may deem proper to secure the organization of farmers' clubs in every County of the State, every Township if possible, and until this is done may appoint organizers to do this work.

ART. V. The regular annual meetings of the meetings of the Association shall be held in the city of Columbia the sec-

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