

# COLE L. BLEASE

## Addresses the People of the State



### To the Men and Women Democrats of South Carolina :

In the first primary election a great number, almost a majority of you, cast your ballots for me. This was not only a personal tribute to me; it was because you knew that I stood for your interests. I thank each and every one of those who voted for me for their ballots. I come out of this great fight with no ill will to any man or woman who saw fit to vote against me. I now appeal to you to consider some things, not alone in fairness to myself, but things you should think over in deciding upon the nominee of the Democratic Party for the office of Governor.

At the Opera House in the city of Columbia, on June 20th, 1922, at the opening of the present campaign, I gave the following outline of my platform as a candidate for Governor:

I am in favor of better arrangements for all of our State institutions, and I am in favor of encouraging them and making them self-sufficient. I have been engaged in doing this for a long time and I am sure you will not give my sanction to it.

I am in favor of building up a free school system, so that all of our children in the State may be given the opportunity of a free common school education in comfortable and convenient school houses.

I believe in paying our school teachers sufficient salaries to secure the best and I mean by "best" salaries commensurate with the time and attention in which our teachers are supposed to perform, as well as the training and discipline of a common and efficient citizen.

I believe in and will advocate the passage of such laws as will further increase labor in all of its legitimate forms and industries, and in such laws as will protect capital in all of its lawful investments, so that all of our people may be protected to the end that we may give equal rights to all and special privileges to none.

I am in favor of liberal support, and if it is necessary for that support, extravagant support to the best Confederate Veterans who are left, and I believe in the honor of the State of Virginia and through the removal of the center of South Carolina in 1876.

I am in favor of the strictest enforcement of the laws which prohibit the selling and use of Cocaine and similar drugs and of our National Prohibition Laws. If our people do not want this done, then they must first not demand their repeal. For if they are at the State House and I have taken it back before God and man to enforce them, I shall do it.

In making this fight I shall throw no faction and no class, because the questions of me to make it have come from all classes and all factions, and if I should become a special object of differences which have arisen, I am sure and shall be President of all the people. All who know me know that there is no point of compromise in me, and that when I say I will, I WILL, and when I say I will not, I WILL NOT, and they realize the fact. If I may be pardoned for saying it, that I am what I am, and that I will do what I say I will do. If it is you are honest and truthful in our expressions that we wish to go together, mine and in a common campaign and fight for God and the people, for the interest of all our people, and in the interest of the special class. Then

we shall accomplish something and we shall have a happy and contented people, and God will smile upon us, but so long as we have dissension and strife and fights among ourselves, we will never be a happy people, because the Lord will not assist those who do not love him and bear his commandments.

I shall not engage in personalities unless such a policy is forced upon me by some candidate of standing in the race. Neither do I propose to make any reference to factionalism unless the issue of factionalism is brought in by the people. I have not yet, but will I ever attempt to bring issues against those, because we are the people and we should stand up for all and for the good.

I favor abolition of all useless offices, commissions, departments or positions. I shall insist that any official who receives a salary from the State shall be required to do a man's work. Where there are five men doing three man's work, I shall insist that the work be done by three men and get rid of two. Where there are ten men doing the work that two men should do, I shall make it my business to get rid of the unnecessary three men, if elected Governor. There are too many commissions—unless commissions spending the money of the taxpayers. I favor the abolishment of all commissions that receive the money of the department from performing a constitutional and statutory duty.

I would abolish the State Tax Commission, which is absolutely unnecessary, and which should be abolished in the interest of the taxpayers. The proper place for the State Tax Commission is with the Comptroller General, and it should not only be required, but made to perform the work.

I am in favor of the reducing of our tax laws to certain fixed requirements to the bottom edge, without, of course, injury to the department of the Government. This can easily be done when the extravagant and useless expenditures of money which has been going on for the past eight years, is considered.

If the legislature refuses to give me sanction and cooperation, I shall use the veto power, as I did when Governor, and this stands square between the people and the Legislature in preventing extravagance and waste.

I am in favor of a tax on the vested power of the State.  
I favor Biennial sessions of the General Assembly.

The above was my speech, in substance, delivered during the

campaign which closed Monday. All through the campaign in all my speeches I have indicated the same platform outlined in the same speech. Regardless of what has been said by the newspapers or any individual, I have kept my pledge to the people of South Carolina that I would retain factionalism and that I would not engage in personalities. The result is that I led the ticket by over 25,000 votes.

Having received in my native county of Newberry 2,086 votes against 1,648 for Mr. McLeod; in my adopted county, Richland, 4,679 against 4,216 for Mr. McLeod.

The vote in Lee county, Mr. McLeod's home county, is: Blease, 1,136; McLeod, 968.

Blease led in 28 counties, McLeod in 16.

The second election will be held TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12. All those who are qualified, regardless of whether they voted or not in the first primary, will be allowed to vote in the second primary. Some women of the State are under the impression that if they vote, they will have to pay poll taxes and serve on the juries. THIS IS NOT TRUE.

It has been usual in some second races for some people, particularly some newspapers, to make bitter attacks upon me and refuse me the privilege of replying through their newspapers, either as a news item or a paid advertisement. I trust the people will not pay any attention to such attacks when I have no means of answering the charges.

The reports that I have promised to pardon or not to pardon certain persons of elected and appointed and unqualifiedly false, I have made no promises and am under no obligations.

I have confidence in the result of the second primary because I know that an overwhelming majority of the citizens of South Carolina are opposed to the extravagant expenditures of their money, and they know that I will fight to the end for the taxpayers of this State.  
—COLE L. BLEASE.

Appropriation Bill	
Under present administration . . .	\$6,584,925.82
Under Blease in 1914 . . . . .	2,146,258.04
Increase under present administration	4,388,672.78
THIS INCREASE IS MORE THAN 200 PER CENT, OR THREE TIMES AS MUCH	

Per Capita Tax	
Under Blease administration . . . . .	\$1.07
Under present administration . . . . .	\$3.25
It now costs every taxpayer in South Carolina over three times as much to run the State Government as it did when BLEASE was Governor.	

McLeod favors INCREASE of taxation by finding new sources of revenue. Blease favors LESS TAXES!