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STATE CONVENTION MEETS THIS MORNING

Election of Delegates Center of Interest.

MAY NOT SEND SEN. TILLMAN

Thos. H. Cothran, W. P. Pollock and N. B. Dial Suggested as Permanent President. Campaign Circus to Come in for Lively Discussion.

John Gary Evans, of Spartanburg, chairman of the State Democratic executive committee, Wednesday at noon will call the State Democratic convention to order in the hall of the house of representatives at the state house. The principal order of business will be the election of two delegates from each of the seven congressional districts of the state and four at large to attend the national convention of the party to be held at St. Louis, beginning on June 14. There are 338 delegates accredited to the state convention from 45 counties of the state.

Fight for Temporary Chairman.

The first business of the convention will be the election of the temporary chairman, and the probabilities are that there will be a fight on this, as it is learned that the Blease faction will put out a complete "slate" of officials. Who will be designated by them for this position is not known at this time but a candidate for this as well as the other positions in the convention will be decided in a caucus of Blease delegates to be held in Columbia Tuesday night. Neither the Manning nor Cooper followers have made any mention of contesting for temporary president, but it is thought the probabilities are that they will do so, particularly if the Blease people carry out their present intention.

Following the election of temporary president, the convention will be organized and permanent officials will be selected by a vote of the delegates. They will consist of a president, a vice president from each of the congressional districts, two secretaries and a treasurer. Thomas H. Cothran, of Greenville, and W. P. Pollock of Cheraw, have been mentioned as possible candidates for permanent president. It is thought that a hard fight will be made for leadership in the body.

"Big Four" May Surprise.

There is much speculation as to who will be the "big four" to the St. Louis convention. The names of Senator Tillman, Senator Smith, Governor Manning and W. P. Pollock have been advanced as probable choice for delegates at large. It is understood, however, that a concerted fight by a certain element will be made on the election of Senator Tillman, who has gone to the national conventions since 1890, and also the probabilities are that objections will be raised to Senator Smith, think those that are familiar with the political complexion of the convention. Senator Smith was not sent to the state convention by his home county—Lee—and this is given as an indication of what will happen Wednesday. Another possibility as delegate-at-large lately has been suggested in the person of N. B. Dial, of Laurens. R. Goodwin Rhett, of Charleston; L. J. Browning, of Union; Bright Williamson, of Darlington; D. C. Heyward, of Columbia, and others not so well known.

There has been an agitation in some quarters for sending only those to the national convention that are not state or federal officials or candidates for state or federal offices. How far this has taken hold of the imaginations of the delegates, is not known at this time, but there are those that think the coming gathering will be filled with surprises for the politicians.

May Bounce Ben Tillman.

Another interesting fight presaged for Wednesday will be the election of the state national committeeman, which, according to the new rules, must be done by the state convention and not by the state executive committee, as formerly. Senator Tillman has held this position for many years and it is known that an effort will be made to oust him.

Should John Gary Evans be a candidate for reelection as chairman of the state executive committee, he will find opposition in the person of Gen.

BAPTISTS CALL PASTOR.

Richmond Divine Extended Call to Pastorate of First Baptist Church.

Rev. Samuel H. Templeman, D. D., for the past seven years pastor of the Northside Baptist church, Richmond, Va., has been extended a call to the pastorate of the First Baptist church of this city, which has been without a pastor since Rev. M. L. Lawson resigned several months ago. In case Dr. Templeman accepts the call, he will come to Laurens within several months.

Dr. Templeman is a comparatively young man, having been out of the seminary only eight years. He is a graduate of Richmond College and Colgate Seminary and has taken post graduate work at Columbia University. At present, in addition to his ministerial duties, he holds the chair of Bible in Richmond College. He is considered one of the most promising young men of the Baptist church in the south. He is married and has two children.

Willie Jones, of Columbia, who was chairman for many years prior to Mr. Evans' incumbency. The Blease faction openly announce that they will select Gen. Jones for the position in their Tuesday night caucus.

The only contest known is that from Beaufort county, where the Christensen and the Tolbert factions—Manning and Blease, respectively—each elected a set of delegates. The fight in Beaufort was the outcome of the effort to recall Mayor Danner, of that city, and bitterness continually brewed until it caused the split in the county convention there on May 1, when the Tolbert faction walked out and held a convention of its own.

Another interesting matter to be brought up at the state convention will be the probable consideration of the resolution passed at the recent meeting of the State Warehouse association which requested one hour's time be given to John L. McLaurin, state warehouse commissioner, at each of the county meetings for candidates in the pre-primary canvass. Senator McLaurin stated at the warehouse meeting that, should this time be refused, he would then go into the race for lieutenant governor. Those familiar with political conditions in this state are of the opinion that the former United States senator will have to make good his words and make a campaign for second place, for they think it very unlikely that the warehousemen's request will be granted.

Others May Want Time.

It has been said that should the warehouse commissioner be given the time, then the state convention will be requested by the fire insurance people to allow one of their spokesmen an hour in which to expose the "fallacies" of the Loney-Odom "anti-compact" law. Also it has been suggested that the Confederate veterans might desire an hour in which to tell the people that increased pensions are needed, and that the prohibitionists and the liquor interests might also demand their hour to tell of the evils and the joys of conviviality, respectively.

"I believe in a compliance with the rules of the Democratic party," stated Former Governor Blease yesterday in discussing the improbability of the state convention allowing any non-candidate to take up the time of the county-to-county canvass, "and, therefore, I am very much opposed to any man that is not a candidate being allowed to speak in the campaign meetings, and I am also strongly opposed to any candidate being allowed any more time than his opponent for the same office."

The former governor stated that he would do everything in his power to prevent the state convention from allowing a departure from the rules in conducting the county-to-county canvass. He said, however, that he could see no objections to any man, candidate or not, speaking prior to and after the regular meetings, if it is possible for him to get the crowds. Other politicians are of the same opinion as ex-Governor Blease, but they have not expressed themselves so strenuously as he has. It is thought that these expressions will be given voice from the floor of the convention should the warehouse resolution be introduced which some are so bold as to assert will not be.—Columbia Record.

PLAY AT GRAY COURT-OWINGS.

Laurens Dramatic Club to Stage "Among the Breakers" for School Improvement Association.

After a successful season of two night in Laurens, one at the opera house and the other at the Laurens Mill school, the Laurens Dramatic Club will open its season on the road at the Gray Court-Owings school building Thursday evening with a repetition of its popular play "Among the Breakers" in which appear some very talented amateurs of the city. The chief attraction in this play is the uproarious comedy strain, which is absolutely irresistible, keeping the audience in a continuous spirit of good humor from beginning to end. Indeed, those who are enjoying a grouch, are possessed of the blues, disappointed in love, are affected with head-ache, heart-ache, ear-ache or any other ailment or pain, are downcast, lonely and dejected are invited to be on hand, bringing the troubles along, for they will be "rolled away like the clouds of the morning". The dramatic critic of this paper was given the license to "spread it on" very thick in regard to this play, as it was thought that nothing he could say would possibly do it full justice, but he will refrain from further encomiums here until the plaudits and praises of the Gray Courtiers justify what he has already said. Comedy, however, will not displace love, pathos and even tragedy in their claim upon the audience, for all of these are so entwined in and around the plot as to make a direct appeal to every emotion. But, getting down to the more practical side of this business, the price of admission will be 15 and 25 cents and an ice cream festival will be held after the show, for which all are expected to come prepared in pocket and purse.

Cast of Characters.

David Murray, Keeper of Fairpoint light house J. M. Fewell
Larry Divine, his assistant, Allie Lee
Hon. Bruce Hunter, W. R. Richey, Jr.
Clarence Hunter, His Ward
Charles Fleming
Peter Paragraph, a Newspaper Reporter Dr. R. E. Hughes
Scud, Hunter's colored servant W. E. Meng
Minnie Daze, Hunter's Niece
Miss Annie Simpson
Bess Starbright, cast up by the waves Mrs. Albert Dial
"Mother Carey", a reputed Fortune Teller Miss Rebecca Dial
Biddy Bean, a Maid Miss Lucia Simpson

MEMORIAL EXERCISES HELD SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Col. H. Y. Simpson Makes Short but Eloquent Address.

Exercises in memory of the Confederate dead were held at the Laurens cemetery Sunday afternoon, presided over by Col. H. Y. Simpson, a member of the Sons of Veterans. The exercises were opened with a song by the children of the graded school, after which an invocation was asked by Rev. J. R. T. Major. Col. Simpson made a short but eloquent address, in which he paid a tribute to the brave soldiers of the Confederacy and charged his hearers, as a matter of love and duty, to cherish their memory of the state's heroes and to defend the principles for which they fought.

The Honor Roll of the Confederate dead was read and the exercises were brought to an end when the school children and daughters of the Confederacy placed floral wreaths on their graves, not forgetting the few graves of Union soldiers who rest there.

Barksdale School Closes.

The annual school picnic of Barksdale school will be held Friday, May 19th, in the grove at Barksdale station. Several prominent men will address patrons and children. The public is cordially invited to come and bring well filled baskets.

Missionary Talked.

Mrs. J. R. Graham, a returned missionary from China, spoke twice at the First Presbyterian church Sunday, in the afternoon and in the evening. In both addresses Mrs. Graham upheld the cause of foreign missions, pointing out that the bible made no distinction between home and foreign missions. Mrs. Graham is a very entertaining and convincing speaker and makes a strong presentation of the cause of foreign missions.

BELOVED YOUNG LADY DIED AWAY FROM HOME

Miss Mary Posey Succumbs to Uraemic Poison While in Virginia.

Miss Mary Posey, only daughter of Dr. and Mrs. B. F. Posey, succumbed to an acute attack of glycosuria while visiting relatives at Martinsville, Va., Saturday evening. She had been complaining of feeling unwell for several days and Saturday morning her condition became so serious that a wire was sent for her father to come to her bedside. He left on the mid-day train Saturday, but by 7 o'clock the same evening she had passed away. The news was received in Laurens with profound sorrow, as the young lady was of noble character, possessed of a bright mind and beautiful disposition, and beloved by all with whom she was associated.

Miss Posey had been away from home for some time. Shortly after Easter she went to Randolph-Macon College, where she graduated last year, to attend a student celebration. She visited friends for some time and then went to Martinsville to visit relatives. The attack came on while she was at Martinsville.

The body was brought home for burial Monday morning. Monday evening at 6 o'clock the funeral services were held at the Posey home on South Harper street and immediately afterward the body was carried to the Laurens cemetery for interment. Rev. J. R. T. Major, her pastor, conducted the services. Classmates of her graded school days and members of the Sunday School class which she taught marched in the funeral procession bearing many beautiful flowers. The pall bearers were:

Active—Messrs Earle Owings, Clyde Fowler, Phil Huff, Rice Nickels, Henry Franks and Moore Dial; Honorary—Messrs. Calvin Owings, W. L. Gray, John A. Franks, Ralph Terry, W. R. McCuen, R. T. Dunlap, C. D. Barksdale, O. B. Simmons, C. W. Tune, C. D. Moseley, Dr. W. H. Dial and Dr. J. H. Teague.

A SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT OF LAURENS COUNTY

Children of Seventh Grade Awarded Diplomas Entitling Them to Enter High School.

Friday evening, at the city graded school building, was held the first so-called "Laurens County School Commencement", which is a part of the plan inaugurated by the department of education this year to standardize the work of the schools and to secure higher efficiency. Twenty-eight schools participated in the commencement, each school having had one or more pupils to pass an examination drawn up by the department of education. Each pupil was awarded a diploma carrying with it the right to enter any high school in the county without further examination. Some very fine papers were submitted and the following received the highest marks:

Annie E. Hatton, Clinton, 97 1-2.
Aldine Blakely, Clinton, 97 1-2.
William Gray, Laurens, 97.
Raymond Gaston, Watts Mills, 92.
Clough Farrar, Mountville, 91.
Lawrence Curry, Gray Court-Owings, 90.

Mr. J. H. Sullivan presided over the exercises of the evening. State Superintendent of Education J. E. Swearingin and Prof. W. K. Tate, of Peabody College, made addresses, the former discussing some phases of the community school system and the latter "The Modern Educated Man".

Annual Jones' Picnic.

Invitations have been sent out to the annual Jones' Picnic, held at Jones high school, near Ware Shoals, every year. In addition to the school program, addresses will be made by Col. J. H. Wharton, Dr. D. M. Ramsay and Gov. R. I. Manning. As in the past, a large crowd is expected to attend.

Will Address Boy Scouts.

Public Invited to Attend Meeting in Scout Hall Next Sunday.

There will be several addresses made before the Boy Scouts of Laurens in their hall over Solomon's Jewelry store next Sunday afternoon at four o'clock. Several prominent citizens have been invited to address the troop and a very interesting afternoon is promised those who attend. The public, and especially the parents of Scouts, are cordially invited to be present to hear the addresses.

LAURENS MUSICIAN HIGHLY COMPLIMENTED

Mrs. W. E. Lucas and Other Noted Musicians Entertain Club Federation in Anderson.

Mrs. W. E. Lucas has returned home after spending several days in Anderson attending the Fine Arts Session of Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Lucas took a leading part in the musical program and added much to her already nation-wide reputation as a musician of the highest talent. The following clippings from the Anderson papers will be read with interest by her Laurens friends:

"The chairman of music, Mrs. Thomas Dotterer, of Charleston, spoke beautifully of the influence and importance of music in her report. Demonstrating her knowledge of music, she selected the best musicians of the state to give the program for this evening. Mrs. A. G. Biotcky, of Spartanburg, has sung with artists, and indeed she has the right to, for she is an artist herself. Her accompanist is also a gifted musician who has been connected with the music department of Converse college for many years, Miss Mary Hart Law. Another young girl who shows unmistakable talent is the violinist, Miss Marie Epton, also of Spartanburg. Another talented woman is Mrs. W. E. Lucas, of Laurens. She has played at many gatherings all over the United States—and her fame is national. All of the players were encouraged, and generally gave other numbers."

In speaking of the musical program during the sessions, The Anderson Intelligencer had this to say in regard to the playing of Mrs. Lucas:

"This interesting program was concluded with a brilliant instrumental selection by Mrs. W. E. Lucas of Laurens, one of the most attractive and talented delegates attending the convention."

PLEASED WITH LAURENS.

Rev. J. L. Brownlee Visiting his Daughter, Mrs. A. C. Todd, on West Main Street.

Rev. J. L. Brownlee, pastor for several years of the Madison (Ga.) Presbyterian church, is spending awhile in the city with his daughter, Mrs. A. C. Todd, and Mr. Todd, Sunday morning he preached an inspiring sermon to an attentive congregation at the First Presbyterian church, where he was heard with much interest. Rev. Mr. Brownlee has recently accepted a call to the Presbyterian church at Lenatobia, Miss., one of the largest churches of northern Mississippi and is taking a much needed rest before taking up his duties there.

Mr. Brownlee will also visit Due West before going to Mississippi, his son being a student at Erskine college, and also Anderson, where his brother, Mr. S. D. Brownlee lives. He hopes also to visit Mountville, where he taught school after his graduation from college. Mr. Brownlee speaks in very high terms of Laurens and of its people, saying that it is always a pleasure to visit here.

Gary Long Paroled.

Gary Long, the young white man convicted at the September term of court of breaking into the Bank of Waterloo, has been paroled during good behavior by Gov. Manning. It is understood that a petition signed by nearly all the responsible citizens of Waterloo besides many people of other parts of the county was presented to the governor in the young man's behalf.

Picnic at Bailey's School.

There will be a picnic at Bailey's school next Friday, May 19th. During the day there will be exercises by the children and addresses by well-known speakers. The public is cordially invited.

Picnic at Fleming School.

Fleming school will have a picnic in the grove at Mr. C. D. Robertson's on Saturday, May 20th. The public is cordially invited to attend and bring well filled baskets.

To Preach Next Sunday.

Rev. L. M. Roper, D. D., of Petersburg, Va., will occupy the pulpit of the First Baptist church next Sunday morning and evening. Dr. Roper is a native of this county and always attracts large congregations whenever he preaches here.

HIGH SCHOOL CLOSING FRIDAY, MAY 26TH

Two Addresses by Distinguished Divines.

CLASS NUMBERS 34 MEMBERS

Baccalaureate Sermon to be Preached by Rev. E. O. Watson and Literary Address will be Delivered by Dr. J. S. Moffatt.

The invitations to the commencement exercises of the Laurens High School have just been issued by the members of the graduating class. All of the exercises this year will be held in the auditorium of the graded school. The following is the commencement program:

Wednesday evening, May 24th, 8:30 o'clock.—Commencement sermon by Rev. E. O. Watson, Denmark, S. C.

Thursday evening, May 25th, 8:30 o'clock.—Class exercises.

Friday evening, May 26th, 8:50 o'clock.—Literary address, by Dr. James Strong Moffatt, President of Erskine College, Due West, S. C.—Delivery of Diplomas.

The following is the class roll: Diploma Pupils—Harry McAlister, Coyle Moore, Charles R. Thompson, Belle Burns, Blanche C. Foeche, Frances Myers, Rebecca J. Lake, Mattie Lee Riddle, Virginia Sullivan, Elizabeth Young; Certificate Pupils—Frank E. Armstrong, Henry V. Bennett, R. Thornwell Dunlap, Thomas R. Easterby, James L. Fleming, Charles M. Pitts, A. Eugene Power, Truman H. Roper, W. Pickens Shealy, O. B. Simmons, Harry E. Wilkes, Fred Wingo, Leona Adams, Alpha Bolt, Mary L. Burns, Margaret Dial, Kate Ellen Eichelberger, Caroline Fleming, Leora M. Powers, Mary E. Reid, Cecelia L. Taylor, Irene M. Wallace, Amy R. Wolff, Myra R. Wofford.

The class colors are yellow and white; the class flower is the daisy and the motto is "Per Aspera Ad Astra". The officers of the graduating class are: Elizabeth Young, president; Alpha Bolt, Vice-President; Thornwell Dunlap, Treasurer; Frank Armstrong, Secretary.

MRS. GRITTON BURIED.

Laid to Rest Friday Evening. Funeral Conducted by Rev. J. R. T. Major.

Mrs. Virginia Gritton, wife of Dr. H. B. Gritton, whose death at Erie, Pa., was announced last week, was buried at the Laurens cemetery Friday evening with a large number of people in attendance. The services were conducted by Rev. J. R. T. Major, pastor of the Methodist church. Many beautiful flowers were laid on the grave after the services were ended.

The following gentlemen acted as pall bearers: Active—Reeder Workman, Fowler Childress, Brooks Childress, Edwin Lucas, T. I. Swygert, J. J. Adams, W. R. Richey, Jr., H. L. Moorman, R. H. Eichelberger, John Bolt, Jr., Marvin Wolf, Henry Irby; Honorary—C. W. Tune, Dr. W. D. Ferguson, Dr. W. C. Irby, J. T. Crews, J. P. Hicks, W. P. Childress, J. Warren Bolt, E. H. Hudgens, W. L. Gray, H. Terry, Aug. Huff, W. A. Watts, Dr. H. K. Aiken, Dr. R. E. Hughes, C. D. Barksdale, J. D. Watts, E. P. Minter, E. H. Wilkes.

PRISONERS TRY TO ESCAPE.

Ralph Martin and Tom Scott, White Prisoners, Try to Escape from County Jail.

Ralph Martin and Tom Scott, two prisoners in the county jail awaiting trial for felonies, attempted to escape from the jail Thursday night by removing the brick from the fire-place of the cell in which they were incarcerated. Mrs. Owings, the jailor's wife, heard the commotion, however, and gave the alarm in time to prevent their escape.

In making the repairs after the attempted delivery, Sheriff Watts took the opportunity to give the jail a much needed cleaning up. A great deal of dirt and filth were removed and a few conveniences in the way of washing utensils were added. Although much scrubbing was done, Mr. Watts states that it would be an impossible task to bring the jail up to any great degree of comfort or cleanliness.