

The Laurens Advertiser.

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RICHEY MAKES REPLY TO CRITICISMS

Says He Acted in Good Faith in Columbia

PROMISES TO PRINT AFFIDAVITS

Mr. Richey Repeats That the Impression was Created in his Mind That There had Been Acts of Fraud in the Election and He Felt Bound to Seek Further Light.

Mr. W. R. Richey, Jr., who states that he has heard criticism of his conduct at the meeting of the State Executive Committee last Tuesday, has written the following letter in regard to the meeting:

Rumors have come to me that I am being severely criticised, and I think unjustly criticised, on account of my actions in the meeting of the State Democratic Executive Committee on Tuesday the 19th, inst., and in fairness to myself I make for publication the following statement.

Before I went into this meeting my attention was called to evidences of fraud, etc., which had been practiced in the Second Primary election. This evidence was in the shape of letters, telegrams and affidavits, and will be published later. This evidence was very strong in character and massive in volume, and created a doubt in my mind as to whether or not the election had been fairly conducted. I presume every man to be honest until I am satisfied he is not, and I have no conception of any man swearing falsely or making a false affidavit, unless I know him to be a rascal, and especially so, when I believe that he is swearing or making affidavit only in the interest of fair play and without hope of remuneration of any kind. The character of this evidence, coupled with the honest opinion that the men furnishing same were honest men, produced, as above stated, the impression on my mind that the election was conducted unfairly at certain places. Then in the face of this honest belief, I ask in the name of common sense and decency, could I have treated myself fairly and could I have treated by county and state fairly, by sitting quietly in my seat without calling the attention of the committee to this evidence of fraud.

I believe if a man follows the dictates of his conscience, he will invariably go right. In this case I followed the dictates of my conscience, knowing at the time I would be criticised for so doing.

Some of my friends have told me that my actions would hurt me politically. I could not hope to gain anything politically by my actions, as the party I am accused of fostering is and has been for four years in the minority. Then nothing but an honest and conscientious motive could have been my object. If I am to be politically ostracised for honestly and conscientiously seeking the truth, then politics do not interest honest men, and it is well that I should die politically in my first effort.

My sole object in acting as I did, was to give the Committee an opportunity to examine the proof I had. I did not, as some of the papers say, charge fraud. I simply said that evidences of fraud had been brought to my attention and had created the impression on my mind that no evidence could be placed in the result of the election. I do not believe any honest man would want fraud in an election covered up, if he honestly believed there was fraud. I honestly believed and still believe fraud was practiced in the election, and now when I offer an opportunity to have it investigated, when I am honestly and conscientiously seeking the truth, I am criticised. I do not believe there is an honest man who reads this statement, but would have done as I did under the circumstances and I am honest in saying that had the unsuccessful candidate been elected and evidence of the same character had been produced against him, and brought to my attention, I not only would have voted against his nomination, but I would have clamored for an investigation.

It is natural with some people to forget, with others it is a matter of convenience and to both classes I want

to ask, if when two years ago, Mr. Cooper lacked only a few votes of getting into the second race for Governor, some of you didn't say or believe that Mr. Cooper was cheated out of the second race by the same political machinery which I refused on the 19th, inst., to vote with. I might be mistaken, but I am almost positively sure, that some of the same men, who are today criticising me for following the dictates of an honest conscience, accused the same political machinery, two years ago, of stealing second place in the Governor's race from Mr. Cooper. I seriously doubt and venture to assert, that you did not have an infinitesimal part of the evidence I had to base your belief on, yet we reached the same honest opinion, and now I am charitable enough and was then towards you, to say, that I believe you were honest in your convictions. Then again did not the State Executive Committee in 1912, when the returns showed that Mr. Jones had been defeated by Mr. Blease, hold up the nomination for six or seven weeks in order that evidences of fraud of the same nature exposed by me on the 19th inst., might be investigated? I have been reliably informed that some of those who are condemning me loudest now, sent affidavits alleging fraud to this Committee. If you will search the records, you will find that Mr. Manning, a member of the Committee in 1912, introduced a resolution in the Committee calling for the appointment of a sub-committee consisting of seven members to make a thorough probe of the fraud charges. An investigation of the same records will show that the charges were based on the same character of evidence as I introduced in the last Committee meeting. The same records will show that members of 1914 Executive Committee, "made it very plain, that the nominations for Governor and other State officers would not be declared, until the Committee, after a thorough investigation, was able to write the words "clean and fair" across the nomination." (For your convenience I cite you to issues of The Laurens Advertiser under dates of August, September and October, 1912.)

Now, what did you men, who are today criticising me for saying that the election should be conducted in such a manner that those defeated would be compelled to say "we are defeated but it has been fairly and honestly done," say and think four years ago? What did you say and think two years ago when Mr. Cooper failed by only a few votes of getting in the second race?

If Mr. Manning by introducing a resolution in 1912 to have a sub-committee appointed to investigate the charges of fraud, was right, and I believe he was, then is there anything wrong in my actions, when in 1916, (not going as far as Mr. Manning) I simply called attention to evidences of fraud. I believe, gentlemen, that a thorough analysis of your conscience, will prove that it is not that you do not want a fair election, or that you find fault with me for trying to procure a fair election, but that you are so prejudiced against Mr. Blease, that you allow that prejudice to blind you and lead you in the dark, when you believe fairness is being sought in his interest.

Some may think that my actions port of the sub-committee and then voting against its adoption. I only say were inconsistent in signing the report in reference to this, that I stated to the sub-committee that I was signing the report because the face of the returns showed that Mr. Manning had been nominated, but that on account of evidences of fraud having been brought to my attention, I could not vote for its adoption, and I made this same statement to the whole committee on the submission of the sub-committee report.

I just want to say in conclusion, and I am honest when I say it, that in acting as I did, I was not influenced by any partisan feeling, but followed what I considered the only honest and decent course, and I have the satisfaction of knowing that in so acting I was guided by an honest conscience, and I am here to tell you that as long as I have the opportunity, I am going to stand on my own feet, and fight for what I think is right and for what you thought was right four years ago, criticism or no criticism. I will say, further, that the only way you can keep me from doing my duty when I am coming to exposing election frauds, is to eliminate election frauds and if it is the Australian system of balloting, the prevent fraud, then lets introduce the system.

TO HAVE HEALTH MEETING.

Dr. Hayne Invited to Address Meeting to be Held in the Graded School Thursday Evening.

Dr. J. A. Hayne has been invited to address a meeting of men and women in the school house Thursday evening for the purpose of considering health preservation problems in the county. Dr. P. M. Routh, who has been in the county several months making a study of sanitary conditions and giving directions on how to improve the conditions, has been instrumental in having this meeting called and a large attendance is expected by him. He is very desirous of having a large audience hear Dr. Hayne, because at a very early date the advisability of hiring a full time health officer for the county will very likely be brought up for discussion.

The meeting will be called at 8 o'clock. The public of the entire county is invited to attend.

Mrs. Lucas Complimented.

A recent issue of The Nashville (Tenn.) Banner, carried a very complimentary notice of Mrs. Cora C. Lucas, of this city, who was recently appointed chairman of music of the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs. The notice was an extended one, including a part of Mrs. Lucas' comments on the meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs which she attended in New York. The following is an extract from the article appearing in The Nashville Banner:

Mrs. Cora Cox Lucas of Laurens, S. C., has just been appointed chairman of music of the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs.

Mrs. Lucas, who is a native of this state, and who lived in Nashville for some years, spends much time in Tennessee with her sister, Mrs. John A. Epperson, of Algood, and also in this city, and her brilliant gifts as a pianist have frequently contributed to the club programs of this section.

Last June she came to Morristown to play for the meetings of the Tennessee Woman's Press and Authors' Club, of which Mrs. Epperson was the retiring president, and she will come to Tennessee this fall for a more extended visit here and in Algood.

Club Experience.

As treasurer for some years of the League of Southern Writers, Mrs. Lucas has done fine service, and she has fine equipment for her new official position in the South Carolina federation. Her piano numbers were features of the last state federation meeting, held in Anderson.

Mrs. Lucas attended the biennial in New York of the General Federation of Women's Clubs as a delegate from South Carolina, and a recent issue of the Columbia State contains a charming article by Mrs. Lucas on the musical features of the great meeting. She relates most interestingly the notable musicians whom the delegates heard and many of whom they had the pleasure of meeting. Some of the musical authorities whom the biennial delegates heard gave valuable advice as to community music.

Pay Visit to Hodges.

Percy W. Moore, county farm demonstrator, accompanied by J. Wells Todd, spent Tuesday at Hodges, making the visit for the purpose of taking a look at Bob Hodges' fine crop of cotton. Mr. Moore stated Wednesday that it was the opinion of five county farm demonstrators, two district farm agents and the State assistant agent, that Mr. Hodges had the best crop of cotton, eighty-five acres, to be found anywhere in the upper part of the State. Mr. Hodges is the pioneer crimson clover farmer in this section of the Piedmont country. Hence fine land, fine crops.

His Successful Hunting Trip.

Sheff J. D. W. Watts took a hunting trip in the lower part of the State last week, at which time he bagged the game. He was joined in Columbia by the Secretary of the State Fair, Mr. D. P. Ward, and Dr. S. J. Summery, of Cameron. Their first hunt was at Mt. Holly Development Co., where they bagged fourteen fox. Their second hunt was on Captain Stoney's place which was a deer hunt. There three deer were bagged by the crack shots. Mr. Watts returned to the city last Monday very highly pleased over the odd luck.

GRATIFYING REPORT.

Report of First Baptist Church Shows Gratifying Progress During the Past Year.

At the regular morning service at the First Baptist church Sunday morning, Mr. C. B. Bobo, treasurer, read the report for the fiscal year, which showed a very gratifying financial condition. The total receipts for the year were over \$9,000. The following is a part of the report:

Pastors salary \$1352.22, State Missions \$700.00, Home Missions \$669.80, Foreign Missions \$2000.00, Judson Centennial \$35.60, Orphanage \$559.00, Baptist Hospital \$19.85, Aged Ministers \$85.00, Ministerial Education \$75.00, Seminary Student Fund \$25.00, Training School \$39.00, Sunday school expense \$131.83, Building \$2556.41, Local church expenses \$761.00, Visiting Ministers \$205.00, Minutes \$1.00, Other Objects \$79.42, Total \$9,292.13.

Total membership at last association was 364, increase by baptism 21, increase by letter 25, increase by restoration 1, decrease by letter 19, decrease by exclusion 1, decrease by emigration 2, decrease by death 3.

Resident membership 331.
Non resident membership 58.
Total present membership 389.

Kruse's Have Accident.

Media, Pa., Sept. 13.—Rev. William T. Kruse, pastor of the Middletown Presbyterian church, and three members of his family had narrow escapes from death this morning, when they ran their automobile into a bank to avoid a collision with a car operated by Maurice C. Michener, Jr., of Media, and overturned their machine. All were thrown out. Mrs. Kruse's nose was broken Miss Louise Kruse suffered a broken arm and Rev. Kruse seems to have a lower fracture. Miss Karlena Kruse, who was running the car, was not injured. Mrs. Kruse and Miss Louise Kruse are in the Media Hospital, where they were taken by Mr. Michener.

Michener's car turned out of a farm lane cut through a high bank near the Rose Tree Hunt Club on to Providence road, and no close that the only course to avoid a collision was to run into the bank.—Philadelphia Record.

CHARGES INFANTICIDE.

Negro Woman at Clinton Charged With Atrocious Crime. Alleged That She Poisoned her own Child.

Cleo Foster, a young unmarried negro woman of Clinton, has been charged by a jury of inquest with the death of her child by poisoning, the alleged crime having been committed at the woman's home in Clinton Friday afternoon. According to the testimony given at the coroner's inquest, the child came to its death by poison, having swallowed some form of concentrated lye. The woman of this that the lye fell off the mantel-piece into the child's mouth and that death was consequently accidental, but the jury took the opposite view of the case after hearing other testimony laying the crime at her door. Witnesses testified that there were no other evidences of lye having been spilled anywhere, no signs of it being found except on the child's lips and throat. The woman has not yet been arrested, on account of her weakened physical condition, but a warrant for her has been taken out by the coroner and will be served at an early date.

The woman made the first report of the child's condition soon after the lye was swallowed. She secured a physician and a policeman who went to the house. She told them that she had been in the kitchen heating water to bathe the child's eyes, when the accident occurred. Testimony at the inquest went to show that there were no evidences of a fire having been built in the kitchen. This testimony, taken in connection with the testimony that there were no lye stains elsewhere evidently moved the jury to place the responsibility of the child's death upon its mother. They returned a verdict to the effect that the death of the child was due to a dose of concentrated lye given by its mother.

Opening of Barksdale School.

The Barksdale school will open Monday, October 2nd, at the accustomed hour. Miss Mary Wylie, of Hickory Grove, will be the principal and Miss Eva Shell, of Gray Court, her assistant.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

Several Tracts of Land and Town Lots Have Changed Hands Recently.

B. M. Wolff, real estate agent, reports considerable activity in real estate during the past several weeks. Vacant houses, he says, are scarce in the city and there is much demand for them. The following sales are reported by him as having been made recently:

Two hundred and thirty-four acres, six miles Southwest of Laurens, lands of Col. T. D. Darlington, of Charleston, S. C., to Dr. R. H. Bryson, of Brysons; three hundred and fifty acres, five miles West of Laurens, lands of Mrs. Eloise Shell of Laurens, to Mr. Geo. H. Belt; Forty acres, five miles South of Laurens, lands of Mr. Alce Drambert to Dr. A. M. Mayer, of New-Larry County; one lot on Church St., property of Mrs. Grace C. Dwyer, of Massachusetts, to Mr. Hance Crews of Laurens.

Robertson-Campbell.

Mr. Owen Campbell, assistant manager for the Laurens cotton mill and Miss Catherine Robertson of Greenville were quietly married at the residence of the bride's parents in West Greenville last Saturday p. m., at 5 o'clock.

They are now at home with Mr. Campbell's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Campbell on East Main Street.

CIVIL WAR HISTORY.

Interesting Bit of History Related in Letter to News.

Editor Greenville News:

Solely with a view of keeping the record straight, I hope you will allow me to correct an error in your notice of the death of Col. R. B. Ligon, in your issue of the 20th, in saying he was at one time colonel of the 3rd regiment.

I have no doubt Col. Ligon was a brave and meritorious soldier. But I don't think he was at any time a member of the 3rd regiment.

His name appears on the Confederate rolls here as a member of Co. "B" 3rd S. C. Inf., which was a part of Kershaw's brigade from a short while after the battle of "Boonesboro" (Federal "South Mountain") to the close of hostilities. Upon inquiry, since this notice, I learn that he held the rank of colonel in command of the 4th regiment of State troops. In the last days of the Confederacy, on the sea coast, and being forced to retire, on account of ill health, was succeeded by Col. John W. Ferguson of Laurens.

The 3rd regiment was one of the regiments called for by Gov. Pickens, immediately following the secession ordinance, and going on to Manassas and Fairfax, C. H., 69 days after the fall of Fort Sumter, was one of the regiments, along with the 2nd, 7th and 8th S. C., that made up the 1st brigade of what was then known as the "Army of the Potomac," afterwards the "Army of Northern Virginia."

The brigade was first commanded by Milledge L. Monham, afterwards by Kershaw, until the latter's promotion to major general. Kennedy was I think, in command of the brigade at the surrender, at which time it was made up of the remnants of the 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 8th, 15th, and 20th regiments, and the 3rd battalion.

The 3rd regiment, composed of four Laurens, four Newberry and two Spartanburg companies had, first and last, four colonels. First James H. Williams a Mexican war survivor, who served the first year and retired. At the reorganization, just before the "Seven Day's Battle," May 1862, James D. Nance was elected, and served until killed at the battle of the "Wilderness" May 6, 1864. By promotion Lieut. Col. W. D. Rutherford then became colonel, serving until killed at "Strasburg," Shenandoah Valley, Oct. 13, 1864. Rutherford was succeeded by Lieut. Col. Robt. C. Moffitt, who was captured on or about the day Col. Rutherford was killed. Then Maj. R. P. Todd, of Laurens, became Lieut. Col. commanding the regiment up to and at the surrender at Greensboro, N. C., April 26, 1865. Col. Moffitt died in prison it appears about the time of the surrender of the regiment.

Please excuse the length to which I have drifted.

Yours truly,
O. G. Thompson,
Private Co. "v", 3rd S. C. Regiment,
Laurens, S. C., Sept. 22, 1916.

TO HOLD COUNTY FAIR FRIDAY, OCT. 20TH

W. D. Byrd Re-elected President

W. C. WHARTON GEN. MANAGER

Enthusiastic Meeting Held in the Court House Monday Morning When Plans Were Set on Foot to Hold the Fair Again This Year. Much Interest Expressed.

At the called meeting of citizens interested in the County Fair, held in the court house Monday morning, it was unanimously decided to hold the fair again this year and Friday, October 20th, was selected as the day on which it should be held. W. D. Byrd was re-elected president of the fair association over his protest, Dr. H. K. Allen was re-elected vice president, C. A. Power was re-elected secretary and treasurer and W. Carl Wharton, of Waterloo, was elected general manager to succeed Mr. J. D. W. Watts who said that other arduous duties prevented him from taking the active part in the fair that the duties would lay upon him.

The old officers of the association only consented to serve again after they were assured that much work heretofore left to them would be done by the committeemen. It was the consensus of opinion that the officers of the association had borne too large a proportion of a burden in past years.

As a step toward relieving the officers of a part of their burdens a committee was selected to appoint all other active committees. This committee met after the regular meeting and the following officials were selected:

Premiums—T. C. Switzer, Albert Dial, Hamp Hunter, T. L. Monroe.

Publicity—W. R. McCuen, B. Y. Culbertson, Allie Lee.

Finance—Dr. W. H. Dial, Dr. H. K. Allen, T. Lane Monroe, W. C. Wharton, J. C. Copeland, John Wells, Dr. J. H. Miller.

Superintendents,
Field Crops—Homer Moore and B. B. Blakeley.

Area—Albert Dial and Fowler Christress.

Cattle—W. H. Wharton and J. M. Sumerel.

Sheep and Goats—M. W. Gray and W. P. Brown.

Swine—Hastings Stewart and D. E. Todd.

Poultry—W. P. Morris and N. A. White.

Bees—Guy L. Watson and James O'Shields.

Women's Department,
Mrs. W. H. Anderson, Mrs. Frank Caine, Mrs. T. M. Shaw.

Vice Presidents,
Sullivan—Robert Holt,
Cross Hill—Dr. J. H. Miller,
Yonkers—R. G. Harris,
Dial—John P. Paden,
Waterloo—J. C. Spain,
Hunter—Geo. A. Copeland,
Laurens—Dr. W. H. Dial,
Soulfletown—W. D. Glenn,
Jacks—John W. Copeland.

Copeland School Opens.
Copeland school will open on next Monday October 3rd with Miss Edna Harvey, of Greenwood, as principal, assisted by Miss Ethel Simmons of Laurens. The patrons hope that this will be the most successful year yet spent in the history of the school.

Death From Well Gas.
Henry Williams, colored, was overcome by well-gas while attempting to clean out a well on the Wharton estate, near Waterloo, last Wednesday and died before assistance could be rendered him. He descended into the well before first examining it and was overcome before he could give any signals to his neighbors on the surface. His condition was only discovered after he failed to answer calls sent to him by his neighbors. Several attempts were made to rescue him, but no one was able to reach him on account of the gas. His body was finally gotten out by means of grab hooks, but all efforts to revive him were in vain.