

COL. NEAL'S ADDRESS TO FELLOW CITIZENS.

HE REVIEWS HIS COURSE IN SOUTH CAROLINA POLITICS.

Why He Favours Local Option—Pays Respect to John Gary Evans in Course of Statement—Tillman and the Dispensary.

To the People of South Carolina:

For six years I have been superintendent of the South Carolina penitentiary. The condition of the institution speaks for itself, and I challenge any criticism or investigation. Had I been content to attend strictly to my official duties, my management of the institution has been such that I could have held the position of superintendent, without opposition, as long as I cared to remain in public life. Fortunately, or unfortunately, however, I have had aspirations and hopes beyond the mere routine of official life. I have been inspired by an ambition to be of practical benefit to the people of my State, and I have never entertained for a moment the thought that being a public officer debarred me from the privilege exercised by every citizen of attempting to influence for good the affairs of my State. In fact, I have felt, as a public servant, that it was my duty to do all in my power to better the condition of public affairs. I have firmly and consistently, without regard to the effect of my individual fortunes, supported the best men for office and the policies that I believed would best conserve the public interest. There is such a greed for office in South Carolina that it makes covards of most of those holding or seeking office. I have earnestly striven to not allow this blight to wither my manhood or patriotism. If South Carolina needs anything, she needs men who are not afraid or who are not prevented by selfish interests from following the dictates of conscience and duty. In the very beginning I felt the need of reform, and was an original "Farmers' Movement" man. I supported Tillman in 1890, and almost without solicitation on my part was elected superintendent of the South Carolina penitentiary in 1892. I had lived on my farm knew but little of public men or public affairs. I had great confidence in the ultimate good purpose of the Reform Movement. In 1893 the dispensary system was inaugurated in South Carolina. It was a new untried experiment. I had a great deal of confidence in Tillman, and gave him my cordial support in his endeavor to make the law a success. As long as Tillman was in the Governor's office his natural force and popularity with the people enabled him to keep the machinery running, though with a great friction. I foresaw during Tillman's last term that when smaller and weaker men undertook to wield the autocratic power necessary to secure the enforcement of the dispensary law, it meant disaster. The dispensary as originally enacted was meant to fit the stern and autocratic attributes of the first farmer Governor, but such harsh administration of the law creating such a radical change in the habits of the people could not long be continued among a liberty-loving people accustomed to govern themselves. When it came to be enforced by an "apist, imitator and weakling," trouble began.

In 1894 I was invited to go to Washington to attend a conference. I was present in Irby's committee room when it was determined to make John Gary Evans Governor of South Carolina. There was only one man who raised his voice against it in protest. I was a witness to the scene when he withdrew in anger from the conference. I came home from Washington convinced that it was impolitic and wrong for a caucus in Washington to select a Governor for the people of South Carolina, and when the infamous Colleton plan was proposed, by which the Conservatives of the State were disfranchised and put upon the same basis as the negro, I determined that if I ever held another public office, I would oppose such a piece of politi-

cal villany. At that time Governor Ellerbe was not the selection I would have made to run for Governor, but circumstances were such as to bring him into the field as the logical opponent of John Gary Evans. I supported Ellerbe, and the history of that campaign is too well known to need recapitulation. It is very unpleasant for a man to be forced to differ with the leaders of his own party or faction, and after the election of John Gary Evans I gave his administration loyal support, and hoped to see it a success. His paucible and arbitrary administration was odious to the people of South Carolina, and every fibre in my nature revolted at the thought of having such a Governor of my State. When the senatorial bee began to buzz in his honor it was a dulcet sound to my ear, for I saw in his selfish desire to supplant the man who had made him Governor the opportunity to rid the State of an incubus. I thought that the election of Ellerbe would prove a benediction and blessing to the people of South Carolina, and that the capacity of John Gary Evans for harm would be far less in the Senate of the United States than in the Governor's chair. My chief desire then was the election of Governor Ellerbe, and I subordinated everything else to that end. He was elected Governor by almost an unanimous vote of the people. The failure of his administration to realize the reasonable hopes of his friends is too painful for me to discuss. I believe that Governor Ellerbe is constitutionally honest, and that he has faithfully tried to meet the requirements of a situation beyond his power, and possibly beyond that of any man.

I am now and always will be his friend and I do not propose to say one word in this letter in exculpation of myself which will add to the difficulties now surrounding him. I have endeavored to co-operate with the men in South Carolina whose object was to reunite our people. The liquor question is "the old man of the mountain" in the politics of this State. I have done all I could looking to a just and correct settlement of the liquor problem. As things now go in this State nothing but evil can come of it. My object has been to eliminate the liquor question from State politics. It is a local matter which should be left with the people of the various counties. It is manifestly impossible to enforce the same liquor law in Charleston and Columbia that you can in prohibition Marlboro and Anderson. I believe that the question should be submitted to the people of each county to say whether they want the dispensary high license with constitutional restrictions, or prohibition. It is a local question and the people of one community or county, in my judgment, have no right to force the people of another county or community to accept summary laws repugnant to local sentiment, traditions and character of the people. I have felt this very keenly and I have not a doubt in the world that this will be the final solution of the liquor question in South Carolina. None other is in accord with the principles of Democracy. A question is never settled until it is settled right. You may for a time by force of circumstances, as has been the case with the dispensary law in this State, deny local self-government, and an opportunity for free expression of public opinion, sooner or later, however, a free people will assert their rights at the ballot box, and vote unto him who stands in the way. The advocacy of local option is no new idea with me. Last May in the Anderson county convention that stalwart champion of popular rights, Hon. Joshua W. Ashley, introduced a resolution instructing the delegates to the State convention to use their influence to secure the submission of the question of high license, prohibition or dispensary to a popular vote. I amended the resolution and assisted in securing its passage by the county convention. In the State convention, however, the people were bound hand and foot and

denied the fundamental right of deciding this important matter for themselves at the ballot box. The Anderson county convention instructed the local committee to have the question submitted to our people in the primary, with the result that Anderson county went overwhelmingly for prohibition. How can a Democrat oppose a submission of these questions to a popular vote or refuse to abide the will of a majority of his fellow citizens? I realize that my contest does not depend upon my official record, but upon the issues hereinbefore indicated. A contest is being waged against me because I have dared to think for myself and would not bend the knee to the dictates of self-constituted bosses. I am proud of the fact that I have stood in the way of some who sought to prostitute the public service to private ends. I am being opposed because of the principles that I have advocated and by the men whose aims I have helped to thwart. It is a vain hope through me to compass the defeat of these principles. No stronger argument is needed than the attempt now being made and the methods pursued to defeat me to demonstrate the growth of a dangerous political power wielded by the dispensary. No man has touched it, no matter how pure his character or how innocent he has been of all wrong, that has not had pitch left upon his hands. It is appalling the frequency with which governors and other high officials have been charged with corruption and bribery in connection with this institution. Whether such charges be true or false their effect is the same, and lowers the whole moral tone of our State.

I am ready and willing to be sacrificed in an attempt to better conditions in this State. I have an abiding faith in the people of South Carolina. I am conscious of rectitude of purpose, I believe in the justice of God, and if the miserable attempt to compass my defeat through unbold means succeeds, I shall appeal to the manhood and patriotism of the people for vindication in the next popular election. W. A. NEAL.

DOWN WITH THE DISPENSARY

FEATHERSTONE'S PRIVATE OPINION PUBLICLY EXPRESSED.

Prohibitionists and High License Men in the Present Legislature Should Combine to Repeal the Dispensary Law, and then they can agree upon a Compromise Measure which will Give Both Sides What They Want.

(Special to News and Courier.)

Columbia, January 19.—Mr. C. C. Featherstone, of Laurens, was in the city this morning, having arrived here yesterday. He came on business, having no connection with politics or the dispensary law.

Mr. Featherstone said that he could not talk about politics, and did not care to have anything to say about the present issues. In a personal way he did express himself, and perhaps he does not know that publicity is to be given his views as to what he thinks the best legislative policy at this juncture.

In his opinion the best thing, the safest course, for the opponents of the dispensary—Prohibitionists, local option men and all—to do is to unite and repeal the dispensary law. When the dispensary law is repealed then the Prohibitionists and the local option men can come together and he is satisfied they will come together and agree upon something satisfactory to both sides. The local option and Prohibition votes are in the majority in both houses, and he is satisfied if they will only come together in some such way that both will get pretty much what they want.

Mr. Featherstone thinks that such a course is due the people of the State, who expressed themselves so forcibly at the ballot-box in the last primary. With all of the work of the dispensary advocates, the personal friends of Governor Ellerbe and everything else, not to count the alleged promises, Mr. Featherstone, who stood as the opponent of the dispensary, came within very little of being elected on a platform

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Clothing Sacrificed! Shoes Sacrificed!
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Positively no money refunded during this sale at
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diametrically opposed to the dispensary system.

Up to the present time there has not been a bill of any kind introduced which in any way looks to radical changes in the dispensary law. If the constitutional amendment proposed, that no members of the General Assembly should be candidates for positions within the gift of the General Assembly, were passed, there is a likelihood that things would be different in a good many matters.

There has been some talk among the members of liquor legislation, but nothing definite has yet been agreed upon. There has been some talk of a bill to exempt certain large cities from the operations of the dispensary law, and it is thought that this will be accepted as a compromise. It is questionable if such a measure could pass unless the dispensary people gave it emphatic endorsement and support, and let it be known that it was a pure and simple matter of compromise.

BY 'FARMER'S FRIEND.'

HE DEMONSTRATES PRACTICAL DIVERSIONIFICATION.

Two Hundred and Sixteen Dollars Profit on Twenty-four Acres of Poor Land in Oxford Pevine Hay.

[Cor. of The Gaffney Ledger.]

Lancaster, Jan. 16.—Mr. Editor: Will you allow me space in your valuable paper for a few suggestions to our energetic farmers, as the beginning of the new year is now upon us, and 1898, with all its hopes and disappointments, is a thing of the past, and it will be well for each of us to take a calm and thoughtful view of the present situation and then act as sensible farmers should. What now do we find the condition of the average farmer? After another year's hard work making and gathering a large cotton crop has he any money left from it? I say emphatically no! Those farmers are fortunate indeed who have been able to pay the debts incurred by them in making the last cotton crop, the vast majority of them having unpaid accounts against them, either for guano or other supplies. Has the average farmer a supply of corn and roughness with which to feed his stock to make another crop? Has he plenty of home raised flour, meat and syrup with which to feed himself and all the hands on his farm for the next eight or ten months? Has he a good garden from which he can gather plenty of vegetables to add to his home raised edibles? To all these questions I must answer no, and yet all these are within reach of every land owner who will throw off the folly of all cotton raising. Shall we continue to raise and sell cotton below the cost of production? I see no hope for us unless we adopt something like the above suggestion and then stick to them regardless of the price of cotton. Let us prepare to plant a good corn crop, say fifteen acres to the plow; then prepare not less than two acres for such crops as sweet and Irish potatoes and sugar cane, clover, millet, etc.; after that prepare eight acres well for cotton, regardless of who may advise you to the contrary. A crop like this will

give you twenty acres to the plow, which is a plenty. This will enable you to prepare the land well before planting and work it well at the proper time. Buy as little guano this year as possible and make all the home made compost you can between this and planting time. Stop buying axe handles, plow beams, singletrees and other things that you can make at home. And stop raising dogs. Better be doing these things than running to town and loading on the streets all day and perhaps dropping in to see the dispensary man.

Never go to town with an empty wagon. Either take a load of hay, pea vines, shucks, or a load of wood; something to pay for your sugar and coffee. Buy nothing on credit if you can possibly pay for it. If you want to be independent and prosperous farmers we must form some such resolutions as this and then stick to them.

Last spring after selling my farm at Elgin I rented an old run down farm that had been making about 300 pounds of seed cotton to the acre. I prepared my land well and sowed twenty-four acres of it in oats in February, using twelve bushels of cotton seed to the acre as a fertilizer. I made 600 dozen bundles of very good oats. After harvesting my oats I sowed my stubble in peas not using any fertilizer, and I made twenty-nine tons of as fine pea vine hay as I ever saw.

In the first week in May I planted thirty-five acres of this old land in corn. I used twenty-eight two horse loads of compost under my corn and made 500 bushels of corn.

At the time I was sowing my oats and planting my corn some of my all cotton growing neighbors remarked to me that "I was a d—d good railroad man but that I was going to make a failure at farming." But you see what I did. I could have sold my oats at 20 cents per dozen and I am selling my pea vines at \$12 per ton. I will give you the cost of my oats and pea crops;

Twenty-four bushels oats...	\$12 00
300 bushels cotton seed...	30 00
Sowing oats...	18 90
Harvesting oats...	10 50
Hauling to barn...	2 50
Thirty-five bushels peas...	24 50
Sowing peas...	20 80
Mowing vines...	15 20
Raking oats...	6 00
Shocking...	8 00
1000 stakes...	2 60
Hauling to barn...	14 00
Total...	\$163 50

Following is what I received for my crop:

600 dozen oats at 15c...	\$ 90 00
29 tons of hay at \$10...	290 00
Total...	\$380 00
Cost of producing...	\$163 50

Balance, profit..... \$216 50
This shows a clear profit of \$216 50 on the twenty-four acres of poor land from the two crops. These are strictly facts.

Do let us stop raising cotton and diversify our crops.
FARMER'S FRIEND.

MAY MEAN WAR WITH GERMANY

THE SAMOAN INCIDENT HAS A VERY UGLY LOOK.

British and American Authorities Were Obligated to Resort to Severe Measures to Keep the German Consul Within the Limits of the Treaty—He Was Very Aggressive and Insolent, and His Conduct Was Such That His Country Should Disclaim It—The Story Which is Regarded by German Press as Grave.

Wellington, N. Z., January 19.—It is reported here that owing to the trouble at Samoa, growing out of the election of a successor to the late King Malietoa, three British warships will proceed there, and that one American warship will start for the islands from Honolulu.

Auckland, N. Z., January 19.—Further particulars regarding the disturbances at Samoa show Mataafa's followers numbered about 5,000 men, and that the adherents of Malietoa Tanus were only about 1,000 in number. There was two hours' fighting between the rival forces, during which several of the warriors were decapitated.

The American consul has issued a proclamation claiming that the Berlin treaty had the same force as a law of Congress, and that an insult to the Supreme Court of Samoa is, therefore, equivalent to an insult to the Government at Washington.

London, January 19.—A special dispatch from Auckland, N. Z., says the British and American consuls were compelled to force the doors of the Supreme Court at Apia, Samoa, in which the German consul had established himself, and put him into the street.

All parties at Apia, the special dispatch continues, unite in condemning the German consul for the fighting which has taken place between the rival Kings. It is pointed out that in violation of all agreements the consul accompanied Mataafa's forces, when the claimant invaded the town, and encouraged the opposition to Malietoa Tanus.

When the British and American consuls were informed as to the situation they adjourned the Court and locked the building. The German consul then demanded the keys, which were refused him. He then broke open the doors, removed the locks and replaced them with others. He afterward brought the German municipal president into the chamber, and the latter went upon the balcony and shouted to the British and American marines assembled on the square: "I am the Chief Justice." The crowd replied with jeers, and the British consul demanded the keys of the building, which were refused.

A Scotchman, named Mackie, thereupon climbed up on top of the building and hoisted the 3-moon flag, while the British and American consuls and a number of marines invaded the building, forced the doors open, and pushed the German consul into the street.

Then the two consuls formally and legally, according to the special dispatch, opened the Court, and issued a warning against any further

interference with its jurisdiction, threatening to arrest and imprison any one attempting to do so.

Matters, the dispatch concludes, are now quiet and the German consul remains in his consulate.

GRAVE VIEW TAKEN IN BERLIN.

Berlin, January 19.—The news from Samoa has been received with foreboding. The Lokal Anzeiger says: "All this doubtless signifies an appreciable quarrel, and with the unceremoniousness which the Americans have affected lately toward us it may easily take a serious turn. The Samoan condominium has always involved a lurking danger."

The Vossische Zeitung says: "The situation will become even greater when the American war ship arrives at Apia. It is said that the Washington department of State has instructed the United States consul general there, L. W. Osborn, not to trust the German consul. Evidently the United States, who are least interested in Samoa among the three Powers, do not mean to respect Germany's paramount interests. Germany will have to show firmness, all the more so as our position is made the worse by the evident desire of England to help the United States so as to retain the latter's friendship."

WHAT IS SAID IN WASHINGTON.

Washington, January 19.—The navy department has prepared orders for the cruiser Philadelphia to proceed to Samoa at once to represent the United States interests there. If any vessel more quickly available can be found, one of Dewey's fleet, for instance, it will be ordered at once to Samoa to answer the urgent appeal of the United States consul there. The commander of the Philadelphia will act in conformity with the instructions of the United States consul, so far as those instructions are in the line with the treaty of Berlin, which, the United States contends, must be literally enforced until amended. It would take the Philadelphia about sixteen days to make the run from San Diego to Apia, touching at Honolulu for coal.

The deepest concern is felt by all three parties to the agreement at the outlook. The common belief is that the Germany representatives at Samoa in acting in the arbitrary manner they did, completely exceeded their instructions from their own Government. It is quite certain that they exceeded the authority with which they were clothed by the treaty of Berlin, and it is expected that the German Government will unhesitatingly condemn their actions as soon as it has become officially advised as to what actually happened.

The authorities feel that the greatest element of danger lies in the possibility of trouble before Raffael and Rose can be restrained by advisers.

It was stated at the department of State today that dispatches had been received from United States Consul Osborn at Apia, but as to their nature the officials had nothing to say beyond that they went to confirm the news dispatches printed this morning. Admiral Kautz, the commander of the Pacific station, is now on board his flag ship, the Philadelphia, and it was stated at the navy department that he would accompany that ship to Samoa.

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