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TREK THROUGH STATE BEGUN.

CAMPAIGN OF 1900 OPENED AT ORANGEBURG.

It Very Soon Grew Spley—Mr. Patterson Attacks Gov. McSweeney from Several Sides—A. C. Jones Enters Race Against Senator Tillman. Report of the First Council on Orangeburg Ground.

(Condensed from The State.)

Orangenburg, June 14.—The dispensary. That is the keynote to the State Democratic campaign preparatory to the primary election in August. The chief interest centers in the candidates for Governor, who represent different phases of the question.

The first meeting at Orangenburg yesterday opened rather tamely, but began to get spicy, and it appears that there will be quite a deal of old time "mud-slinging" in this campaign. Mr. Patterson of Barnwell made vicious attacks on Mr. McSweeney; Mr. Capers and Mr. M. Mahan began to warm up; Mr. Brooker and Mr. Durham showed signs of word-scraping, and Maj. Bernard Bee Evans jumped on his distant relative, Mr. W. D. Evans.

Mr. W. O. Tatum, county chairman, sounded the gong at 11 1/4, and the candidates were off. Rev. W. A. Rogers of the Methodist church opened the exercises with prayer.

When Mr. Tatum introduced Gov. McSweeney there was some handclapping. The boys hadn't found the use of their throats. In opening his speech, Gov. McSweeney thanked the people of Orangenburg County for suffrages. He had been twice elected Lieutenant Governor and June 2nd, 1899, succeeded the late Gov. Ellerbe. He had since succeeded Gov. Ellerbe and endeavored to carry out all the laws of the State, to be fair and impartial and to require all those under him to do the same. Factional lines had been obliterated, and he claimed the credit for doing as much as any other man to bring this about. South Carolina is today regarded as one of the most progressive States in the union and there is no reason why this condition should not continue. He hoped that nothing would occur to mar the high plane upon which he proposed to conduct the campaign. He had conducted his office on business principles and had tried to administer the government without friction or interference with other officials. Whenever matters required executive action he had conferred with county delegations, on the principle of self-government. He proposed to stand on his record, and felt that his record was entitled to endorsement for re-election to succeed himself.

He believed in liberal and hearty support of the common schools and any man who would tear down a higher institution of learning is an enemy to the State. He believed in a liberal but economical support of State colleges.

He favored the building of good roads and believed in governmental appropriations to aid that work. He recalled his efforts to revive the search for the "Black" documents and reports, his message to the Legislature advocating an appropriation for that purpose, and stated that the State was now in a good way to recover large sums from the National Government. He then began to talk upon the dispensary question and the audience began to listen more closely. He said that the liquor question in this campaign perhaps overshadows all others. For three successive elections the people have endorsed the dispensary. It is giving better satisfaction now than it has ever done. The charge that dispensary constables go around armed and ready to shoot down people is not now so objectionable. Prohibition cannot and will not be enforced. Prohibition was tried in the interregnum when the dispensary was closed by the courts, and the State was flooded with blind tiger liquor.

A gentleman in Portland, Maine, had written him just a few days ago asking for information about the dispensary, as they wanted a better thing than prohibition. It has proved a failure wherever and whenever tried. He had prohibition when the dispensary was declared unconstitutional and every one remembers how whiskey was openly sold. Take the experience of those towns and counties in which prohibition laws were tried and drug stores and blind tigers run night and day and whiskey could be easily obtained. With a prohibitory law you would not only have free whiskey but you would have encouragement.

He said he would like for the honest and sincere prohibitionists and temperance people to ask themselves why the friends of the old bar room and the advocates of high license are

so many of them advocating prohibition and then stop long enough to answer it. Do you suppose for a moment that they really want to see real prohibition? Their prime reason as stated by themselves is to break down and overthrow the dispensary. Their real and true reason is that they believe prohibition would be a failure and then the State would adopt a license system and finally return to the old barroom. If not that those who want to engage in the illicit sale know that the opportunities are much greater under prohibition than the dispensary.

It is for the taxpayers to say what they are going to have. Will they have the State torn to pieces and the open and illicit sale of whiskey everywhere. Then vote for prohibition. The prohibitionists come before you with a regular organized party, and ask you to elect a candidate as Governor. I am here advocating what I believe to be right and for the best interests of my State with no organization. It is for you to say by your votes whether I have administered the high office of chief magistrate in such a manner as to merit your endorsement. If I have I ask that endorsement of my administration to which I am entitled. If I have not then I am willing to retire without a murmur.

Suppose you elect a prohibitionist governor, what assurance have you that you will have a prohibitory law, for the Legislature enacts the laws; and unless a Legislature pledged to absolute prohibition be elected, there can be no prohibition laws.

Gov. McSweeney was cheered upon the conclusion of his speech.

Chairman Tatum then introduced

COL. JAMES A. HOYT.

Col. Hoyt was not without friends in the audience. They greeted him warmly on his appearance. In beginning he stated that he was no stranger here, as he had visited nearly every section of the county and had enjoyed the hospitality of many homes.

Col. Hoyt had been a friend of Gov. McSweeney for many years, but the latter claimed too much when he claimed to be the man who broke down factional lines. There were many in both parties who had worked for that end. "God forbid that I should ever disturb the equanimity and placidity of the conditions in this State," he said.

"I am not here to plead my own cause or to urge for any personal reasons that the people should clove me to the high office of chief magistrate of the State. It is a call to duty that brings me to this platform, and to the best of my ability it is incumbent for me to represent those who are dissatisfied with the present status of the liquor question. That there are many thousands who do not believe in the continuance of the dispensary system, whereby the State is caused to be engaged in the traffic of whiskey as a beverage, has been abundantly proven in the past, and I am confident that the opposition grows stronger the more light there is thrown upon the false and pernicious system, by which every citizen of the State is made to share in the traffic.

"We deny that it is a proper function of the government to engage in this business for the money there is in it, and we utterly repudiate any responsibility for the baneful consequences that inevitably flow from the distribution of the great curse of mankind among the people by sworn officials of the State.

"No man has yet been found to argue that the morals of the people are intrinsically benefited by the sale of liquor. It was never argued in the days of the saloons that they improved the morals or promoted the righteousness of any community, and the mere change of method in sale does not and cannot alter the situation in this respect.

"The State, engaging in this unwholesome trade, does not transmit the X brand of 'chemically pure' into an agency for the promotion of virtue and morality among the sons of South Carolina. The elevation and improvement of society are not involved in the increased consumption of liquor by the citizens of the State, nor does it tend to bring peace and happiness to the homes of the humble or the rich. The sale of liquor is admitted on all sides to be an evil and only an evil, and it is not diminish in any respect because the sovereignty of the State is thrown around the traffic.

"Prohibition Democrats are opposed upon principle to this traffic under any system, and they are doubly opposed to the commonwealth being engaged in the business, for it makes them sharers in the profit against their protest.

At the conclusion of his speech Col. Hoyt was presented with two beautiful bouquets, one from Mrs. E. S. Harbert, president of the Christian Temperance Union of the State.

The other bore this inscription on the card:

"To our standard bearer, Col. Hoyt, with the Prayers and Best Wishes of the Mothers of Orangenburg."

On the reverse of the card was a quotation from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 13, verse 12.

MR. A. H. PATTERSON

was then presented by Chairman Tatum. This candidate for Governor elicited no enthusiasm during the first part of his speech, but later, as he began to stir up sensational matter, he was cheered by the crowd.

Mr. Patterson, after some desultory self praise as to his stand on education, got down to business. In regard to the liquor question he said:

In October, 1895, Gov. Evans addressed a circular letter to all the mayors and intendents of the towns and cities in South Carolina, inquiring whether drunkenness and crime had decreased since the enactment of the dispensary law. Their answers showed that the consumption of liquor had decreased 47.67 per cent., drunkenness had decreased 57 per cent., and the number of cases of drunk and disorderly conduct had decreased 66.916 per cent. Gov. Ellerbe on October 1, 1897, only a little over two years ago, addressed a circular letter to ministers of the different denominations in the State, containing about the same questions as that of Gov. Evans, and out of 463 answers received, 324 reported a decrease in drunkenness of 46.13 per cent.

You can judge yourself whether or not Governor McSweeney has been a friend to the dispensary by what the papers say. Gov. McSweeney can't go back on the papers, because they are his chief supporters at present. The Hampton Guardian, of which he is editor and proprietor, came out in a strong editorial just before the last session of the Legislature, strongly advocating Senator Appell's local option bill. Gov. McSweeney simply says that he did not know that such an article was going to appear in his paper. But you will observe that at the head of his paper is "Miles B. McSweeney, editor and proprietor." And the reporters, in defending Gov. McSweeney said that they did not know but that he would have favored something of the kind. Why did he not come out like a man and say at that time "I am not in favor of the dispensary law?" At that time the dispensary was under fire from all sides, on account of the recent scandals in the State Board of Control, and a great many thought that it would be repealed. Even the Columbia State came out and intimated that Gov. McSweeney had a leaning towards local option. A very significant fact is that the managers of the Hampton Guardian have never come out and denied any knowledge on Gov. McSweeney's part. It struck the public as being a feeler as to the strength of local option. Does it not look peculiar that these young men would have written an editorial that would have been calculated to elect or defeat the editor and owner of the paper?

Now let us see how Gov. McSweeney has enforced the dispensary law in Charleston. There are said to be 354 blind tigers in Charleston, anyhow there are 180 U. S. revenue licenses taken out there, and do you know how many constables Gov. McSweeney has placed in Charleston to enforce the law with? Only four. The constables are only required to make a few raids, and the indictments are turned over to the police, and I say right here that not one indictment has ever been brought in Charleston by the constables of the State since Gov. McSweeney has been in office.

To show you the mockery of the enforcement of the dispensary law in Charleston by the police, I have now before me a report of the chief of police to the Governor, of 30 cases which he reported in July, 1899, giving the names and addresses of the keepers of the blind tigers. All of these cases were thrown out by the grand jury. Why? Because in every single one of them the same two men were the witnesses. On Feb. 24th of this year Chief Boyle reported 30 new cases, and again only two witnesses were used. Do you blame the grand jury for throwing them out? No. Why did they not haul up reputable citizens who patronize these places and make them testify?

He then jumped on Gov. McSweeney for not making a hurried raid on the custom house in Charleston. He stated further that members of Charleston's city council were operating blind tigers, notably August Mathies.

Patterson then preferred the additional charge that since Mr. McSweeney had been Governor of South Carolina he had patronized blind tigers himself. "Here is the paper

that makes the charge, and the editor of it says that if he doubts it he will produce the proof."

At this point Mr. McSweeney interrupted Patterson to deny the statement that he was a patron of blind tigers and he stated in regard to the photograph business that the picture in question was a photograph of all the Governors. He replied very neatly to the charge about subscriptions to county papers by saying that all the Governors since Johnson Hagood had done so, and if Mr. Patterson would read the papers more he would be better off.

It had been stated that Gov. McSweeney had been taking every paper in the State. It was believed that Gov. McSweeney was paying for these papers out of his own pocket, but such is not the case, for the vouchers in the Comptroller General's office show that Gov. McSweeney has paid for his subscription to almost every newspaper in South Carolina out of the Governor's contingent fund. He has taken money from your taxes and used it to pay his private debts. He has no more right to do this than the treasurer of the county has to take money from the office to pay for his paper.

Furthermore, he has paid for his own paper, the Hampton Guardian, and that of his private secretary, the Newberry Herald and News. But it is an attempt to subsidize the press by paying for them out of the people's money. But this is not all. We have here the following item: \$20 paid Reckling for photographs of the Governors of the State. I certainly have no objection to having the walls of the Governor's office adorned with Gov. McSweeney's picture, but if he wants us to appreciate it he should have paid for it out of his own pocket and not out of the people's taxes. We also have here 100 copies of the News and Courier. I don't know what he wanted these for. All of these are unauthorized expenditures. He opened his part and was intended to beat him for reelection.

MR. FRANK B. CARY.

Ex-Speaker of the house of representatives was the next speaker. His entire speech was of a high and honorable plane. He said:

We have come today, under the directions of the Democratic party of South Carolina, to see the people whose votes we ask for, face to face and to discuss the issues which are before us. We come not to indulge in vituperation and abuse of one another, nor to indulge in personalities, but to present the views which we entertain as strongly as we can and in proper language. If any have come expecting to hear personal abuse and mud-slinging, I will say at the outset that so far as I am concerned they will be disappointed. I shall not be drawn into personalities here, for I consider this neither the time nor the place to adjust those matters. I shall treat all my fellow candidates courteously. At the same time I shall present my views as forcibly as I can, deeming it my privilege to criticize in proper language the official acts and public utterances of those who oppose me.

I am before you as a candidate for the high and responsible office of Governor. I entered this race not of my own motion and to gratify my own ambition, but it was at the solicitation and earnest request of many members of the general assembly and others who feel a deep interest in the welfare of our common country. I have been urged by many who feel that the lack of enforcement of the dispensary law is surely undermining it and will eventually wreck it. They have urged me to make this race knowing me to be a real friend of the dispensary law, and believing that as long as it is on the statute books I would have it enforced. They urge me to make this race knowing, too, that I am not in favor of forcing the law upon an unwilling people, and that I am in favor of allowing each county to determine whether or not there shall be a dispensary within its borders.

It has been repeatedly stated that the Governor and I will represent the same views upon the dispensary question. This, my friends, is a mistake, if I correctly interpret his message to the general assembly. In that message he urges that the control of the dispensaries should be in the hands of the State house officials. In this we differ. I believe that the management of the liquor should be removed as far as possible from political influences. He believes that the board of directors should have the power to place dispensaries in any counties except those already dry, and wherever they see fit, whether the counties desire a dispensary or not. In this we differ. Since the last act of the legislature the benefits of a dispensary, if there are any, and the evils, if there are any, which attend a dispensary, are con-

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

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