

Richardson not to run. I didn't know the farmers wanted me for governor and an honorable man could not run, having promised Governor Richardson not to run.

Meeting at Florence.

A VERY SAD SPECTACLE.

But a Natural Consequence of Campaign Methods for the Past Six Years.

Special to The State

FLORENCE, July 24.—Well, the clash has come. It has almost seemed a miracle that in the campaigns of '90 '92 and '94, when there were candidates of opposing factions on the stump, when party bitterness ran high and there was every cause for the excitement of passion, there were no personal encounters upon the stump.

It was a shocking scene for a South Carolinian to contemplate, but it was the culmination of practices upon the stump that have heretofore been disgraceful. Perhaps if a dozen men had been killed to-day it would have been a blessing to the State.

Governor Evans alluded to General Earle as a free dog with its tail out. General Earle resented that by attempting to slap the governor's face. Blows were exchanged and they were separated.

The attack was made with great quickness, and the 400 men who were packed in the court house were for the moment too astonished to realize what had occurred. Then it was that one injudicious act by a too excited man with a pistol would have resulted in a red carpet of blood on the court house.

This was not the only extraordinary incident of the day. The charges preferred by General Watts against his opponent, General Riechbourg, were of a character not brought upon the stump since Democratic rule. This matter will hardly rest where it now is.

The attack made by Mr. Duncan on Governor Evans was particularly vehement and scathing. Mr. Whitman also seemed to be in a fighting mood, making heavy luges at Mr. Ellerbe, who refused to notice him.

A collection of the choice words and phrases used to-day will be interesting years hence.

JUDGE EARLE. Judge Earle received with cheers and applause. He regretted exceedingly that candidates could not come before the people on issues instead of personalities.

Turning to his competitors, Judge Earle said: "These men say I am not a Reformer. As well as I remember, one of them Governor Evans, had not decided he was a Reformer till after the campaign of '90."

Governor Evans—Why, I was running for the senate on the Reform ticket.

Gen. Earle—I thought the date of your conversion was at the meeting in Aiken.

Gen. Earle closed by asking the people to vote for whom they thought the best man. He was heartily cheered. The incident of the questioning may not have gotten him any votes, but it certainly gained him sympathy.

The speeches of the other candidates contained nothing out of the line of the reports of former meetings, except that the serenity of Editor McSweeney's campaign as candidate for Lieutenant Governor was broken by Mr. M. R. Cooper of Colleton, who attacked Gen. McSweeney's Reform record vigorously and criticised his attitude to the Reformers since 1890.

Mr. McSweeney answered for B. R. Tillman I carried my county for him. I was county chairman for 10 years and it was said I distracted more niggers than any man in the State.

There is the neat little sum of \$35,000,000 a year in the scheme for the owners of American silver mines if they can force free coinage upon the country. With that sort of prize to play for, there need be no doubt the Bryan managers having all the campaign funds they want. They will have money to make bonfires with if they ask for it.

In going to get a drink stop and think what bargains in pianos, organs and Sewing Machines are to be had at the Sumter Music House, in the Masonic Temple building.

Tobacco Baskets, cheap as the cheapest, for sale by Levi Bros.

come together and unite in one cause for the good of the whole State and Union. (Cheers and continued applause.)

Gov. Evans was received without demonstration. He was glad Judge Earle had put his speech on such a high plane. He had hoped the campaign would have been so conducted from the first, but it had not been.

Judge Earle—Who was the first to descend from that plane?

Gov. Evans—You at Lancaster, when you propounded to me questions which implied I had given my brother State insurance at a higher rate.

Earle—Now, governor I did not wish to go into that matter. The questions were handed to me by a man who is prominent in the State government. I had the right to ask them—any citizen had, and I did so in as courteous manner as possible. It was you who descended from that plane, when at Chesterfield you made certain allusions to me.

Gov. Evans—Boys I told a little joke on him and I've a good mind to tell it here to-day.

Judge Earle—Now Gov. Evans, let us understand each other. I do not propose to allow you or any other man to treat me in a disrespectful manner. I have stood more than I intend to stand again. (Wild cheering for Earle.) Quieting the crowd with wootions of his hand, Gen. Earle continued: "I will endeavor to treat him as the governor of South Carolina, but I'll not forget I am a man." Continued cheering.

Gov. Evans—Now sit down. You have got to treat me as a gentleman. (Hisses.)

Governor Evans defiantly said he knew he was among his enemies; they hated him for enforcing the law; but he would put it down their throats—or words that effect.

Why did Earle try to get out of that questioning by putting in a State officer? You have promised to furnish proof and you have not done it.

Judge Earle (drawing some papers from his pocket and mounting the little stand by Governor Evans' side)—I have the proof—not all but there will be more.

Governor Evans—Oh, you have got to produce it.

Judge Earle went back to the Lancaster meeting where Governor Evans had said that the board of control had agreed on a policy which he carried out, and therefore he had only called one meeting of the board in '95. This had been contradicted by Mr. Tompkins, who at Chesterfield said there had been no such agreement.

Evans—Get down to your point.

Judge Earle had understood from Col. Tompkins, who spoke in the presence of Mr. Mayfield and Mr. Robinson, that when a shipment of beer came from some other except the Charleston brewery, Evans wanted to have it seized. He understood Mr. Norton, the other member of the board, to say they had not agreed on a policy.

Mr. Norton said he had been misunderstood. He had said that when the board had elected the commissioner and clerk, an agreement of policy was thus indicated.

Governor Evans—An agreement to carry out Governor Tillman's policy and I was to enforce it.

Judge Earle announced that he had an affidavit here from Mr. Maxwell of Anderson.

Governor Evans—Who is Mr. Maxwell?

Judge Earle—A gentleman. Governor Evans (sneeringly)—Oh, they are all gentlemen.

The Maxwell letter was read as follows: German-American Insurance Company of New York. J. D. Maxwell, Agent.

ADERSON, S. C., July 20, 1896. Hon. Joseph H. Earle, Greenville, S. C.

Dear Sir—I have been requested to give you the following facts in reference to the insurance of the dispensary at this place:

The entire risk had been placed, at the opening up of the dispensary, in Anderson, in my agency of the London and Liverpool and Globe Insurance Co., at 2 per cent., being the South-eastern Tariff association rate on saloons in that location.

The said Southeastern Tariff association, on the 24th November, 1894, issued the enclosed slip, which explains itself, and on the receipt of same I gave notice to our dispenser that I would renew the insurance at 1 1/2 per cent. Did not get the renewal, but was informed that the business had been placed, by the State board of control at Columbia, in Mr. B. B. Evans' agency, at the old rate of 2 per cent.

Very respectfully, (Signed) J. D. Maxwell.

General Earle said he had been informed the insurance on the dispensary in Florence had been raised, taken away from the old agent and given to Mr. Barney Evans. He had nothing to say against Mr. Evans; it was his business to get insurance; but the governor had asked for proof and he had gotten it.

The same thing he was informed had been done in Greenville, and in substantiation he offered the following letter from Mr. Goldsmith, a high-toned Christian gentleman, United States Branch, The North British and Mercantile Insurance Company.

GREENVILLE, S. C., July 22, 1896. Personally appears before me, Wm. Goldsmith, Jr., who being duly sworn, says that the dispensary in this place (Greenville) closed in my

office in spring of 1895 and requested me to advise what return premium would be due him on policy No. 1654848, North British and Mercantile Insurance company, which company is in my agency, if cancelled on April 1st, 1895. I informed him that the policy would expire July 18th, 1895, and it would be cheaper for the State to allow the policy to continue until expiration. He remarked he had nothing to do with it, as the placing of the insurance was arranged in Columbia. On April 4th, 1895, at the request of the dispenser at this place, I cancelled the above policy and returned him \$2.63. If the policy had continued in force until expiration the State would have saved \$2.42, as all policies cancelled at request of assured are cancelled at "short rate."

After inquiry as to who was placing this insurance in Columbia, I was informed it was placed all over the State by Mr. Bernard B. Evans, in the North British and Mercantile Insurance company, the same company it was placed in in my agency.

I then inquired from the company why they allowed an agent from another place to write insurance in my territory, and was told the contract was made with Bernard B. Evans of Columbia, S. C., who was a brother of the governor of the State, and contract was made with him so as to get the control of this insurance.

The State lost \$2.42 by this "deal."

Wm Goldsmith, Jr. Sworn to before me this 22nd day of July, 1896.

H. J. Haynesworth, Notary Public for South Carolina.

Judge Earle said he was informed this condition existed all over the State. Governor Evans' brother had a right to get all the insurance he could, but it was a question for the governor to answer whether it was right for him to allow this insurance to be in his brother's hands when he was governor and chairman of the board of control.

Governor Evans said it was a question for him, and no one should answer for him.

Judge Earle asked Governor Evans if the dispensary fund was not separate, and he replied that it was not. Look at the act, said he, and you'll see it is required to be kept separate.

Governor Evans—You said the insurance fund.

Judge Earle—You misunderstood me.

It was the governor's duty, said he, to know what was being paid for dispensary insurance. He should have known that his brother was receiving more than other agents. He would not have referred to this matter if Governor Evans had not brought it up in the manner he did.

With that remark, Judge Earle gathered up his papers and was going off the stand, when Governor Evans asked for the documents. Judge Earle handed him the two letters he had read, saying, "Be sure to return them."

Governor Evans—Do you think I would steal them?

There were other papers in his hand and Governor Evans asked for them. Judge Earle said those letters were all he had to give now; the other papers were private—did he wish to see private letters and decrees?

Governor Evans said he saw among them a letter signed by L. J. Williams, a man from whom he had taken beer that had been unlawfully shipped. He thought it only honest that he be given all the charges against him. "Is not that right, fellow citizens?" He must show up or shut up. I demand that he show up or shut up.

Judge Earle had left the stand and taken his seat among the other candidates. In referring to Maxwell's letter, Evans said: "Why did not that thief who had been getting from the State 1-2 of 1 per cent. more on insurance than it was worth, not inform the authorities of it before he was about to lose the insurance?"

Judge Earle—Governor Evans, be fair to that gentleman. He gave the information as soon as his company reduced the dispensary rate. Governor Evans said these people attempt to break him down with the testimony of a man who convicts himself of stealing 1-2 of 1 per cent of this insurance money.

Judge Earle—He refers you to his company's slip.

Evans—Sit down Judge Earle; let me make my speech.

To the crowd—The truth hurts and I am going to stick it to him.

Gov. Evans then jumped on towns in general and Florence in particular. A young man who was standing near him made some remark which was lost on all but the governor, who hollered at him:

"What have you got to do with it, sir?"

The young man replied: "I live in this town."

Evans—Well if you don't like what I say lump it? It was bad enough when Earle tried to bulldoze him, but when these little fellows attempted it, it was too much.

Evans handed Earle back the papers, saying, "Here, judge, are your credentials to the United States senate. Grover Cleveland might honor them, but Bryan never will."

Earle—Thank you, sir.

The men who this insurance was taken from were Seibels & Co., of Columbia, "who had been fighting your governor and your movement" and Mixson simply divided it up, and gave it to that boy.

"I'll read a letter from Ben. Tillman. They have been quoting Tillman, but now, after old Ben's letter

is here, they have been going about like fices with their tails cut.

Judge Earle was up on his feet in an instant and in three strides had reached the stand where the governor was getting within arms' reach of Evans he said:

"Gov. Evans, to whom do you allude?" Gov. Evans—Judge, I did not mean you.

Gen. Earle—To whom did you allude as vice with their tails cut?

Gov. Evans—To you and Duncan SLAPPED THE GOVERNOR

Instantly on the reply being given Judge Earle slapped at Evans' head.

The governor ducked and the blow just grazed his head. Evans struck at Earle, they clinched and one or two blows were given, all within the space of a second. The people were astonished, but there were several men expecting trouble and they were quickly on the scene. A State constable sprang between the two men, separating them. Judge Earle was caught by the arms and forced back to his seat. He attempted to get back on the stand, but there was a wall of humanity between him and Evans. When the audience realized that the governor and judge had come to blows, there was a roar and a mad rush. Some went for the door, but 200 banked themselves around the judges' bench, on which Evans was. There were cheers and counter cheers. Pistols were drawn freely by that class of men who do not feel safe without a gun in their hands. Some were calling for blood and some for peace.

Mr. J. H. Blackwell was brought up to an almost uncontrollable pitch. Mounting the stand, he yelled so his voice could be heard several feet away, "By God, men, if they want to fight their way in the senate, let them fight. We are ready. This is too much! Gen. Earle, I am astonished at you, sir," Mr. Blackwell was finally cooled off. Detective Newbold was in the middle of the hall when the blows were exchanged. He reached the stand among the first and used every effort to calm the excited men. It was a moment when the firing of a pistol would have resulted in many men being killed. Several men got upon places of vantage and begged the howling people to be quiet. Judge Earle resumed his seat. There was blood trickling down his left cheek from a cut just under the eye.

EVANS FINISHES.

In 15 minutes there was comparative quiet and Gov. Evans resumed his speech. He devoted himself exclusively to the financial question, ending up by making disparaging remarks about town people in general. Mr. Jno T. Duncan hoped that Gov. Evans would not attempt to take any more advantage over his competitors than the long lead he had as chief executive of the State. He was forced to allude to battles of the past, when Gen. Butler went around the State with his guard and Gov. Tillman with his—the two guards being a stand off. Now Governor Evans had this man with him (pointing to Detective Newbold) Newbold attempted to speak to Duncan, who said, "I don't want to have anything to do with you sir."

He regretted the dirty flings this man (Evans) had made. He had said that he attributed Senator Tillman's letter to the earnest solicitation of Evans, and he said now that if Tillman did not again come to his (Evans) aid that he would be gone. Evans had to say that he had the instincts of a gentleman, and in doing so he stoops to make capital out of the dead. "Knowing him as I do, I say he is unworthy to breathe her name. I know his immorality? If it is so with the other officials, God pity the offices!" When a charge was made, said Mr. Duncan, Evans said "it is a lie," but when you bring the proof, you see the spectacle that he has made of himself when confronted with it by Judge Earle. He declaims against insinuation, but if insinuations would fatten he would be as big as an ox. You see in two newspapers outside of the State dispatches sent from Trenton, Edgefield county, saying that he was to have been the son-in-law of a certain man. Great God! does he wish to go into the senate in that way!

Mr. Duncan then referred to the letter he had received from Senator Tillman. "Is there a man in all our midst who has not been so slandered by this man that you could believe him?" Governor Tillman had said that Dan Tompkins was such a man; he would believe him above all others. Senator Tillman should have recognized his right to repeat this.

When he had said of Tillman that he could make any man senator by speaking a word, he thought he paid him a compliment few men in this State had ever enjoyed. But this seems to have been resented as implying bossism. Let it be so. He'll have to come to this man's rescue or he is lost. Mr. Duncan, referring to the dispensary charges said he had made them at the opening of the campaign and had run a foot race with him over the State trying to get him to explain. He would say, and from Senator Tillman's own teaching, that a State senator who makes money out of any State contract is trading on exceedingly dangerous ground.

Voice—Went Gov. Evans gives the terms of the contract? Duncan—He won't say how much he is to get. Mr. Duncan again referred to Gov. Evans' being protected. He said he would guarantee that if Evans would dismiss this State official who was going around with him, that no one would hurt him. He himself, would go with him, and use him as a jumping jack. (Cheers.)

Let's see, said Duncan, how justly Evans has dealt with the evidence produced by Judge Earle. The point is this: When Evans is governor, his brother has the State's insurance. He brought this on himself when he said that my brother received a salary from the State and went even further to declare that my younger brother, whom I pay out of my own salary, was in the State's employ. How has he treated Mr. Seibels and held him up as an enemy of Reform? When after the trouble in Darlington the insurance on State property was cancelled and it was in danger, Mr. Seibels went to Governor Tillman and offered to insure it and Governor Tillman gave him the insurance. It is seen how he has been treated by this map, who says that Mixson gave out the insurance. He was chairman of the board and Mixson doubtless knew he was not offending his chief. He says Mixson gave it without his knowledge or consent. That is a remarkable declaration for a man holding his position to make.

Mr. Duncan was listened to with close attention and was several times applauded. As soon as the meeting was declared adjourned, Mr. Duncan being the last speaker, there were loud calls for Earle. Judge Earle was in one of the jury rooms surrounded by his friends. After the demonstration had been kept up for some time the judge responded, walking into the hall and saying a few words to the men who had gathered there. He regretted exceedingly he said, the events of the day, but had been taught by his father and grandfather never to take an insult, and he never would. He was loudly applauded.

In the evening the chief of police of Florence called at the hotel where Governor Evans and Judge Earle were stopping with warrants for their arrest on the charge of disorderly conduct. When the chief told Governor Evans that he had a warrant, he was informed by that official that it could not be legally served upon him, and if it was served, he would forcibly resist arrest and would moreover take charge of the Florence police force. Governor Evans claimed that the chief executive could not be arrested by a police officer. The chief retired and reported to the mayor, and these officers met the governor at the depot before his departure, and assured him that they meant no disrespect, and had simply been advised by the city attorney.

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