

# Candidates For Governor.

## Their Platforms as Outlined in Their Speeches at First Meeting of the Campaign.

### Arguments Advanced by Aspirants for Gu- bernatorial Honors Why the People Should Give Them Their Suffrage--All Candidates Have Substantially the Same Platform, Save as to the Liquor Issue.

Cole L. Blease.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentle-  
men, South Carolinians:

Two years ago when I appeared before you as a candidate for the office of governor, I was introduced to you as Senator Blease. This morning your chairman introduced me as Major Blease, of Newberry. Two years ago I represented Newberry county in the State senate. At the close of that year I voluntarily retired from that position, and last December I was elected mayor of the city of Newberry, where I was born and where I have lived all my life. So it is with pleasure that I can today repeat the boast which I made in the last campaign, viz., that the people of my home town and county have never refused to elect me to any office that I have asked them for. I have been town attorney and am now mayor, and have represented the county in the house of representatives and in the State senate. I have been elected to nearly every State convention since 1890, when I began my service in the house of representatives, and am now serving my fourteenth year on the State Democratic executive committee. In the race for governor two years ago I received a majority of the votes in the town of Newberry and in the county of Newberry, and in the surrounding counties of Laurens, Saluda and Union, and in that section of Lexington adjacent to my home county. Where the people know me best I received my largest vote, and of that I am proud. As to my success in my profession, the records in the office of the clerk of the court at Newberry will show that my name appears as attorney in nearly all of the important criminal and civil cases of the county. I have served the State as speaker pro tem. of the house, and as presidential elector twice, and as a member of the State board of canvassers for four years, and I beg to refer you to those with whom I have served and those whom I have served as to the manner in which I filled these positions and discharged the duties thereof.

We are told today that conditions in South Carolina demand a sound and economical, but not penurious business administration, and it is true. The financial question is the greatest issue which confronts our people. And who was it that first called attention to our financial condition? Blease did it on the floor of the senate, and worked for a more economical government, and begged the senators to reduce appropriations, not to create useless offices and to stop burdening the people with taxation. In 1906 and 1908 I went on the stump all over this State and begged the people to pay more attention to their financial affairs, and did all in my power to make the financial condition of our State the principal issue in both those campaigns. But the politicians and certain newspapers wanted to keep concealed the true conditions, so they hollered "liquor, liquor," and hid the facts, as far as possible, from the voters. Now, since they can not keep these conditions hid any longer, some of them are yelling, "Let liquor alone, and let's have a business campaign." All right, that is what I have been begging for, for years, and I am glad to see that the people have at last waked up to find that I was right, and that they are now demanding what I have been trying to get for years—a more economical form of government.

Two years ago I exposed the immigration law so completely that the legislature was forced to repeal the act and abolish the immigration bureau. Had it not been for my fight that abomination would still be with us.

I fought for the inspection of our mills as to health and as to working children under the prohibited age and not within the legal hours, and the legislature has made provision for this.

I fought for night schools for children who could not attend day schools, and succeeded in getting a law passed upon that subject.

I fought the effort which was made to keep thousands of our white people from voting in the primary, and in the State convention I succeeded in getting the committee to report unfavorably upon the resolution, and on the floor of the convention I again fought it, and the convention refused to pass the resolution, and all white men in South Carolina are yet free.

My platform today is as follows:

1. An honest administration of all laws, fairly and impartially, to all citizens alike.

2. Enforcing all laws upon all subjects, and obedience to the constitution of the United States and of South Carolina.

3. Trial by jury for all persons accused of crime, and enforcing the judgment of courts founded upon the verdicts of the juries.

4. Keeping forever separate the legislative, judicial and executive departments of the government, each, however, doing its duty and endeavoring to uphold and support the other.

Upon this I respectfully present the following issues for the consideration of my fellow-Democrats to whom I address myself:

(a) I am in favor of biennial sessions of the general assembly.

(b) I am in favor of liberal appropriations for our Confederate veterans.

(c) I am in favor of liberal, but not extravagant appropriations for our State institutions of learning, so that all of them may be kept upon a high standard.

(d) I am in favor of building up the free-school system so that every white child in South Carolina may be given a good, common school education in comfortable and convenient school houses, and in paying teachers sufficient salaries to secure the best. I am absolutely opposed to compulsory education, as my record in both the house and the senate in the past will show.

"In my opinion, compulsory education at the hands of the State means disrupting the home, for it dethrones the authority of the parents and places the paid agents of the State in control of the children, and destroys family government. Those agents stand between the child and the parent. They represent the State. They are not responsible to the parents. They impress upon the minds of the children the views of the State, and virtually say, "We have taken you out of bondage and made you free, we are giving you what your unnatural parents would not give you—and no child on earth can be subject to such influences and teaching and escape imbibing the spirit of rebellion against parental authority, and consequent disrespect and ingratitude. Children are too easily infected with the idea that their parents owe them everything, while they owe them

nothing in return, and with the design and law of God set at defiance, who can compass, by the widest stretches of the most gigantic mind, the condition that will follow? We desire to see the standard of education raised in South Carolina; we want every boy and girl in the State to have every possible opportunity to gain for themselves the very best and highest degree of equipment for life, but we do not want it at the cost of parental authority and the peace of the home. Family government and parental responsibility antedate all others, and it is possible for wild, extravagant and madly enthusiastic men, who see theory and theory only, to destroy family government, alienate children from their parents, and force the home into a sense of strife, rebellion and wretchedness." The Bible says a great deal about obedience to parents and reverence for parents, and, believing in that Book and its teachings as strongly as I do, I say to the parents, for the sake of their children, our country and for the future, keep within your own control the rearing and education of your own children, and strike down by your ballot every effort to deprive you of the same. Our people fight force bills in congress and they had better fight this one at home.

(e) I am opposed to the higher education of the negro race, and in favor of the taxes paid by white people going to and being used only for the education of white children.

(f) I am in favor of a strict enforcement of the vagrancy laws.

(g) I am in favor of a law requiring either a marriage certificate or the registration of all marriages in the office of the clerk of the court of the county in which the marriage takes place.

(h) I am in favor of a flat rate of 2 1-2 cents per mile on railroads in this State, but am opposed to the rules now in force on the railroads as to mileage books and charging 15 cents excess.

(i) I am in favor of good roads, good morals, and honest government.

(j) As to the whiskey question, I am satisfied that the people of the State are tired of the agitation along this line. I favor local option, and, in order to be strictly Democratic and allow self-government and home-rule, I favor extending the present law, so as to allow a county to have license, if the majority of her white citizens wish it, as other counties have dispensary or prohibition. However, if license is voted, I favor the most rigorous enforcement of the laws for the sale in this manner, prohibiting under any circumstances, any whiskey being sold in less quantities than one-half pint, or between sunset and sunup, and prohibit it from being drunk on the premises, or being sold, under any circumstances, to minors or inebriates, or behind closed doors or screens, prohibiting any obscene pictures on the premises, or any billiard or pool rooms connected therewith, and providing that any person holding a license who shall violate any provision of the law shall immediately upon conviction, forfeit his license and be forever thereafter barred from being licensed, and in addition be imprisoned at hard labor in the State penitentiary without the alternative of a fine. I am absolutely opposed to the old bar-room system and would under no circumstances sign a bill to reinstate that system.

(k) I am opposed to any law restricting the rights of Democrats to vote in the primary elections, other than is provided for in the rules adopted by the State convention, which provides as follows: "That no white man shall be excluded from participation in the Democratic primary who shall take the pledge required by the rules of the Democratic party, and whose name has been enrolled on the Democratic club list five days before the primary election, and who is in otherwise qualified under the constitution and rules of the Democratic party to vote in the primary election." The oath referred to is as follows: "I do solemnly swear that I am duly qualified to vote at this election according to the rules of the Democratic party, and that I have not voted before at this election, and pledge myself to support the nominees of this primary." Rule 2 provides that no person shall be permitted to vote unless he has been enrolled on a club list at least five days before the primary election, and unless he has been a resident of the State one year, and of the county in which he seeks enrollment 60 days preceding the next general election. It is, therefore, seen that the clap-trap, so-called argument that people

are allowed to vote in the primary elections who have only been in the county for a few days or in the State for a short time is absolutely unfounded and unwarranted, because these provisions which I have cited make it absolutely imperative that in order to vote in the primary one shall have been in the State one year and in the county 60 days preceding the general election, and this absolutely prevents any man from voting in the primary election who is what is commonly called a floater. In my opinion, this is amply strong, and any law passed by the legislature further abridging the right of suffrage in the primary would be vetoed by me immediately if I were governor.

(l) I am in favor of running the government on a liberal, but not extravagant basis, (as is now being done) and in making our tax levy both county and State, as low as possible for a safe and economical management of our financial affairs; and of reducing expenses, abolishing useless positions, stopping extravagant appropriations for any purpose, stopping the useless expenditure of money by officials, stopping the creation of useless offices, and all other methods of reckless, careless or useless expenditure of money that causes an increase in the tax levied upon our people, for our taxes are too high, and our people are now too heavily burdened with taxation.

I fully believe that the grandest, most progressive, most perfect and most independent form of government is a poor government and a rich people. When you make a rich government, and thereby impoverish the people, or make a poor people, you reverse Democracy and create dissatisfaction and discontent among the people, who are the masters and not the servants, as some would have us think. For me, give me a poor government and a rich people, in place of a rich government and a poor people for the more money that you give your legislature the control of, the more extravagant will be their appropriations and expenditures. Under our present management the idea seems to be to raise the tax levy higher, making assessments higher, make more extravagant appropriations, and spend the people's money uselessly, making both the people and the government poor, for the benefit of a few, who hold political positions and draw large salaries, and who are trying to create an aristocracy, not of blood, not of brains, but of money.

(m) I am in favor of the constitutional amendment to be voted upon in the general election providing for a fifth justice of the supreme court, and in favor of making the decision of the supreme court in any case the final disposition of that particular case in so far as the State courts are concerned, unless that court itself shall for good and sufficient legal reasons afterwards brought to its attention change its decision. Trifling with the courts, as is now being done, should be stopped. And in order to bring this about I am in favor of such laws being passed as may be necessary, even if it require a constitutional amendment.

(n) I am in favor of all laws that will favor and protect labor in all its legitimate callings and endeavors, and such laws that will protect capital in all its lawful investments, and the good old Democratic doctrine, "Equal rights to all and special privileges to none" in each branch of the government and particularly in the enforcement of all laws.

I have been advocating these principles for years in the house, in the senate and on the stump in my home county and throughout the State, and have stood squarely upon them out in the open and never waited to see which would be the popular side before taking a stand. Even when some of them were very unpopular and it seemed that any man who dared advocate them was doomed to political oblivion I stood by them and made the fight to keep them up and begged the people not to be deceived, but to hear me for my cause, and now we see some who did not stand for them, or who, if they did, were afraid to acknowledge it, endeavoring to push me off my platform and yelling to the people that they and Betsey killed the bear and that they are the logical candidate. If there be a logical candidate upon these principles or upon a financial platform for a more economical form of government, and for reduction in appropriations and a business man's administration, I submit to you, the people, that I am the man, standing upon my past record as candidate, legislator and citizen.

I beg to call your attention to the fact that two years ago I received forty two thousand and one hundred votes for this position.

From the information that I have received I am satisfied that I will be elected and if so, I promise you a fair and impartial administration of all the duties of the office and in so far as my power lies a reduction in expenses and an honest enforcement of whatever laws may now be upon your statute books, or may be placed there by the properly constituted authorities.

John T. Duncan.

The supreme task of the hour is to save society, your state, your nation from the hands of the despoilers.

Get together and build a rampart of moral standard, statute, inspection, and publicity, to check the onslaught of internal enemies.

You have grown into an organic society where the welfare of all is at the mercy of each. Common peril should hush petty discords, and attitude differing men to harmonious action.

Let us consider vice as those practices that harm one's self; and sin, as conduct that harms another. Vice weakens and destroys the body and in the end its wage is death, while the sinner, unchecked by society makes his way upward towards the sunshine and approval. Vice drags down into darkness the individual, while the sinner, sleek is honored and envied. He is unpunished and unrepentant, yea, arrogant and daring, to the shock of the righteous, disheartening the weak, and demoralizing the young, who for a few years, at least, should cherish the ennobling illusions that the right always triumphs.

The greatest sinners make of religion a hollow mockery and with their money, make it a cloak to hide their sins, while they subsidize the community, the newspapers and the pulpit.

Fourteen years ago I felt it my unavoidable duty to expose to you a Governor, who was then manning your State Dispensary for the purpose of robbery. Some did not believe me then, but no sane man will now dispute the fact that the Dispensary has been robbed to a frazzle, and that infamy and degradation is abroad in the land, and our public offices, and courts reek with rottenness.

We now see our double degradation in what set out to be an investigation of the thieves by their friends, but they fall to robbing the robber, and in this is our opportunity, and this I will demonstrate when I am Governor.

Our fight in the race fourteen years ago, for cleansing our public institutions and incidentally for a seat in the United States Senate was made with the faith in myself, that I was capable of serving you with credit to myself, and my people but you heard me not, and I have paid the penalty.

I have never capitulating or made terms with the enemy, and I am today fit to serve you and better prepared.

My college education and practical every day experiences then, was no mean preparation, but I trust I have broadened with the years. That I was built on different lines, and stand head and shoulders above my competitors, I thank my God, that I can see farther, and know more to interest you, is but natural.

While our friends pass out to you their stale canned goods of which I am sure you are sick I shall give you modern and approved food for thought. I am a reformer, and for this I owe no man an apology for I have proven to you the quality thereof.

To the conservatives I say, that our good men have been kept apart by the villainies of The State as managed and manipulated by the sweet scented pair of Cuban extraction. They have kept up blinds to hide the truth. I shall smash that blind. One of your citizens said, that Clark, Jones and Gonzales were not in politics and you can't get at them. While not condescending to hold an office they have their servants do this, while they are after greater things, and keep their hands into everything up to their armpits.

You good people too have suffered and sorrowed bad, but our average good citizens who were not able to withstand the temptations of our Capital City and fell. Mothers, sis-