

COUNTY CAMPAIGN OPENS.

LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES ALL AGAINST STATE-WIDE LAW.

Meeting at Privateer Tuesday Opened the County Campaign—Crowd of More Than Two Hundred Voters Gave the Office-Seekers an Attentive Hearing—The Occasion Passed Off Pleasantly and Without Incident—Picnic Dinner Served for All Present.

The county campaign opened at Privateer, Tuesday, with all the candidates for Congress, State Senate, House of Representatives and county offices present, except Mr. C. E. Stubbs, candidate for re-election to the House, who was too unwell to attend.

As is always the case when a campaign meeting is held at Privateer there was a large and representative out-turn of the voters of that section of the county. The crowd numbered at least two hundred to hundred and fifty voters, and the best of order was preserved, each and every candidate receiving a quiet and respectful hearing. At the conclusion of the speaking it was announced that lunch had been provided for all present, and the candidates and audience were invited to come forward and partake of the abundant repast of fried chicken, ham, sandwiches, cake, pies, bread, etc.

The meeting was called to order at 11.45 by Mr. Thomas E. Hodges, who presided. Rev. William Haynsworth was introduced and opened the meeting with prayer.

Judge Richardson.
Judge of Probate Thomas E. Richardson, the unopposed candidate for re-election, was the first of the speakers to be introduced and make his bow to the assembled voters of Privateer. He spoke very briefly, confining his remarks to thanking the people for the support given him three years ago when he was a candidate in the special election, and pledged himself to continue his effort to administer the office efficiently and acceptably.

Supervisor Pitts.
Supervisor Pitts gave a brief account of his administration, and promised to spare no effort to give the county an efficient and economical administration and to improve the public roads in all sections of the county as rapidly as the means at his disposal will permit. He thanked the people for the support given him and especially for the evidence of the confidence they have shown in him by permitting him to be re-elected without opposition.

Treasurer Wallace.
Treasurer B. C. Wallace was also in that happy class that had only to make his bow, thank the people for past support and promise to continue to administer the office to which he has been elected and will be returned by the unanimous suffrage of his fellow citizens fairly, impartially and to the best of his ability.

Auditor Wilder.
Auditor J. Diggs Wilder, who is now serving his seventh consecutive term, spoke with sincere appreciation of the kindness he had received from the people of Sumter county, and renewed his pledge to give them the very best service of which he is capable as the best and only means by which he could prove his gratitude for the confidence of his fellow citizens.

R. B. Belser.
Mr. R. B. Belser, the good roads candidate for the House of Representatives, stated that while his purpose, if elected, would be, primarily, to urge a movement for good roads throughout Sumter county, he expected to labor with all the earnestness of which he was possessed for the good of the State along all lines. He was especially interested in good roads because he believed that good roads are the greatest need of Sumter county and of the whole State of South Carolina, that a system of good roads will do more to promote the prosperity of Sumter county than any other agency, that good roads will make country life more pleasant, will improve the citizenship of our people, will increase land values and will bring nearer the day when Sumter county will be what nature intended it to be—the garden spot of the State, as South Carolina will be the garden spot of the Union and the banner agricultural State of the entire country. In the past ten years South Carolina has made greater progress along agricultural and other lines of industry than any other State except Georgia, and Georgia's lead is attributed to the fact that Georgia has devoted more attention to road improvement and had made greater advance in road building than this State.

He felt qualified to discuss the question of good roads because he had given it long and painstaking study and had had exceptional opportunity to obtain reliable information at first hand by observation and from the men who are building good roads in other States. He had visited many States in the North, South and southwest and had sought and obtained information. The sum of his observations and of the information obtained was that in the States and

counties where roads are best, the land values are highest, prosperity is more general, schools are better and the drift from country to the city of the best and most progressive element of the population has been stayed. The results that have followed the building of good roads in other States will be obtained in Sumter county by the same means.

Mr. Belser went on to elaborate his presentation of the value of good roads by practical illustrations of the results to be obtained. Then he developed the argument by showing how it is possible to obtain a complete system of roads in this county at the minimum cost and without materially increasing the burden of taxation. Along this line he covered practically the same ground that he did in his speech before the Good Roads meeting held in this city a few weeks ago, which speech was published in full in this paper at the time.

As one result of the construction of a system of roads Mr. Belser argued that the consolidation of schools would follow and that it would be possible to have a first class school in each community, so that no patron would be more than three miles distant from his school house, and the majority would be within a mile.

In closing he defined his position on the liquor question clearly and unequivocally. He said he was for local option, was opposed to a State-wide prohibition law, and would vote against and bill to force prohibition on a county that was not in favor of it. He believed that the only way by which prohibition could be enforced was by a strong and vigilant local public sentiment. In reply to a question as to his views of the section of the Carey-Cothran law making it unlawful to receive or keep liquor for personal use, and Judge Memminger's construction of it, he said he did not believe it good law and would vote to repeal that section.

J. E. DuPre.
Mr. Jas. E. DuPre said that he was the only candidate for the House from Sumter county, that is, the only candidate living outside the city of Sumter, therefore he felt that he represents and will represent, if elected, the agricultural interests, whom he believes should have a representative on the delegation. He felt qualified to represent the people of Sumter county, and was not without legislative experience, having had the honor to represent them in the House on a former occasion.

He would stand for an economical administration of the State government; the State is going from bad to worse all the time, appropriations grow larger each year. He would oppose the making of appropriations in excess of the income of the State, as had been done year after year in the recent past, thereby piling up a growing floating debt. He would stand for rigid economy.

He favored equalization of taxation and, on the county board of equalization had worked and used his influence to bring about the equalization of tax returns in this county. He favored liberal appropriations for the pensioning of the old soldiers, all deserving veterans should be taken care of in their old age, it is a debt the State owes that should be paid; but the pensions should be given only to the worthy, the unworthy should be weeded out. It is a fact well known to many that there are now on the pension roll many who should not be there—some such are to be found in every community. He believed in good roads and would work to secure them, favored giving the Supervisor all the money possible for this purpose—all that can be used to advantage. He was opposed to giving Clemson College so much money, that the college should be given an adequate support, but it is now receiving more than it should have and the over-plus should be divided among the rural schools. He favored the enactment of a land registry law based upon the Torrens system, that would relieve real estate of the present cumbersome and expensive system of transfer and that would make a man's real estate as available for use as collateral as the banker's bank stock or the other stock in which the capitalist may have his money invested. He would advocate the enactment of a marriage registration law. A law of this kind is needed, it will keep the records straight and will prevent litigation. He would advocate a law requiring the county and township lines to be permanently and plainly marked—at present it is impossible to tell with any degree of certainty where the lines are and much confusion exists. On the liquor question he declared for local option as to counties, let each county settle this issue for itself as Sumter county had done. He was a prohibitionist in practice and in principle, had signed the petition to call the election in Sumter county and stood ready to sign another at the expiration of the four years so that the people might have the opportunity to say at the ballot box whether they wished to continue prohibition or return to the county dispensary system. He would oppose the attempt to force State-wide prohibition on counties that have voted to continue the dispensary. Prohibition has proven effective in his section of the county

and he had been told that it was effective in Camden and in Kershaw county; this was because public sentiment was back of the law. He said he would vote to repeal the section of the law making it unlawful for a man to have liquor for personal use.

C. E. Stubbs.
Chairman Hodge announced that Mr. C. E. Stubbs, candidate for re-election, was sick and unable to be present.

T. B. Fraser.
Mr. T. B. Fraser thanked the people of Privateer for the fine vote they had given him every time he had been a candidate, it was a testimonial of confidence that he appreciated personally, but it was more than that for it made him feel that the people approved of what he had done and had tried to do as their servant and representative and it nerved him and strengthened him to do better work.

He said that he favored education in all its departments and his vote and his voice had been used to further this cause. He said that he had heard that there had been some criticism of the division that had been made of the profits of the county dispensary between the city, county and school fund, and would say that the county delegation had endeavored to give the schools as nearly as possible the same amount that they had received from the dispensary fund under the old State dispensary, had tried to leave things as they found them and had done so, inasmuch as the schools received within a few dollars the same amount as they had previously received. He would not criticize those who thought money for the schools was good no matter what the source, although personally he held the opinion that whiskey money should not be used to educate our children, any more than the colleges should accept money from Rockefeller—had opposed the taking of \$75,000 of Standard Oil money by Davidson College on the same ground.

As to the liquor issue Mr. Fraser said he would read what he had to say—he had decided to write out his views for two reasons, first in order that he might have his position clearly on record and second that he might make it brief. He read the following statement:

"On the liquor question I want to say I am for local option, not because I am opposed to prohibition but because I am in favor of prohibition. Being in favor of prohibition I want that kind that in my judgment will prohibit. I do not believe that State-wide prohibition will prohibit. I believe local option prohibition will.

There is no controversy between the State-wide prohibitionist and me as to the evils of liquor. The expenditure of money for liquor that ought to be used to pay debts, to increase the means of earning a livelihood, to procure home comforts and to buy bread, is, in my judgment indefensible. The effects of liquor in unfitting men for productive work while its hideous effects continue; the creation of an unsatiable appetite for more, the blasting of the lives of so many who drink and the lives of so many more who love those who drink, make its use the crowning evil of today.

We must take the world as we find it, but leave it better if we can. It is not the dreams we have dreamed, but the deeds we have done that count. Local option has made 37 of 43 counties prohibition (practically prohibition) territory and I say well done local option. I will try it again. The strides local option prohibition has made are marvelous. The two principal foes of prohibition were (1) a general impression that there would be immunity from punishment for the violators of this law, (2) a fully developed thirst for liquor. Now give it a chance. There is no immunity from punishment. That foe is vanquished. The thirst must die by degrees. Give it time and local option prohibition will demonstrate its effectiveness.

I am not a local optionist because local option is "good Democratic doctrine." Democratic doctrine is not opposed to State-wide or nation-wide legislation. Nor do I believe a community has the right to sell liquor if it pleases to do so. No community has the right to sell that which produces want, disease or death. If I can get immunity from a scourge for my own community only when isolated and with self-imposed restrictions and can not get protection if joined with the State and all other communities, have an equal chance to secure the same protection and do not do so, the fault is theirs not mine. I want the chance to protect my own."

Mr. Fraser favored good roads and wished to see the movement go forward as rapidly as is consistent with good business. Sumter county needs good roads. He did not think Mr. Belser had over-estimated it when he said that the value of lands would be enhanced from 25 to 50 per cent. by the construction of a complete system of roads in this county. He believed that the farm lands of Sumter county are worth \$300 an acre, if the lands in Kentucky are worth that, for our lands produce crops that sell for more than the produce of the blue grass lands that sell for \$300.

Good roads would make our lands more desirable and the country a more attractive place of residence. In reference to the proposed bond issue for roads, he said the only question was whether the end sought would be obtained. Be sure that a system of good roads can be secured for \$200,000 then go ahead. When it was proposed to issue bonds for roads the legislative delegation asked the Supervisor how much he could use to advantage, and he said not more than \$10,000 a year. For that reason the bill providing for that amount was introduced and enacted. He was not opposed to the issue of bonds proposed by Mr. Belser, on the contrary thought the plan suggested an excellent one, if it could be carried out, and that Mr. Belser deserved credit for the thought and research he had devoted to the matter. All he desired to say was that the people should be sure they wanted the bond issue and to be sure that they could get the roads desired for this amount. If the people want the bonds they can get them, and the matter will be referred to them for their decision.

In reference to the unlawfulness of having liquor for personal use, and Judge Memminger's construction of the section of the law relating to this matter, Mr. Fraser said that in his opinion the law did not mean what Judge Memminger said it does, that he agreed with Attorney General Lyon's construction of the law; that a man had the right to have liquor for personal use, and that that only the keeping for unlawful purposes is forbidden.

In conclusion Mr. Fraser gave an account of his work in the legislature, detailing how he spent his days in work in the House and in committee. During his ten years service he had been absent from his seat only five days, and then on account of sickness.

Hon. Geo. W. Dick.
Dr. Geo. W. Dick began his talk with a joke and interspersed his remarks with other jokes that kept the crowd laughing, until one of the audience turned the joke on him in an unexpected manner and gave him the dry grins for once in his life. Ask him about it, as he prefers to tell the joke on himself.

Dr. Dick declared himself in favor of an economical administration of State affairs and his record showed that he had worked to keep the taxes as low as possible, consistent with an efficient government. He was in favor of higher education, the proper support of the State institutions and the improvement of the public school system so that every child shall have an opportunity to obtain an education. He said he favored good roads, the only trouble was to find out how to get them. He spoke of Mr. Belser's plan as a most carefully thought out system and one that should have careful consideration by the people. As to the bond issue he would favor referring it to the people to decide. He endorsed all that had been done to provide for the support of the old soldiers, both by pensions and by the erection of the Home in Columbia. He would favor as liberal pensions as it is possible for the State to afford. He referred to his work for the establishment of the Reformatory for boys, and said that he felt great pride in the fact that he was one of those who fought for this institution and helped to make it an actuality. He touched briefly on his work as a member of the committee that investigated the State Hospital for the insane and the fight over this matter that followed in the legislature. He spoke of the effort of certain cunning politicians to defeat the plans of the committee for the purpose of gratifying selfish ambitions, and of the final victory achieved by the appointment of a commission, through which order will finally be brought out of chaos.

On the liquor issue he declared in favor of local option, believes in letting each county decide for or against prohibition, for the reason that the enforcement of the law depended wholly upon local conditions and local sentiment. He is opposed to the attempt to force a State-wide law on the counties that voted to retain county dispensaries.

He was opposed to the section of the Carey-Cothran law that makes it unlawful to have liquor for personal use. Would vote to repeal this section of the law if opportunity offers.

Mr. A. K. Sanders.
Mr. A. K. Sanders, candidate for the Senate was the next speaker. He referred to his campaign four years ago, when he opposed Mr. Clifton, saying that it was a pleasant campaign, that he and his opponent entered it as friends and had continued friends. He hoped this campaign would result the same way.

He favored good roads and would do anything in his power to promote the cause. He was, however, somewhat skeptical as to the proposed bond issue and would advise the people to go slow. He favored liberal pensions for the old soldiers, but was satisfied there is something radically wrong in the award of pensions, for there are those on the roll who should not be. He favored the weeding out of the unworthy so that those who are needy and deserve relief should receive more than a bare pittance.

As to education he said he favored the proper support of the colleges and the improvement of the schools. He was convinced that the State's educational system is becoming top-heavy, that some of the colleges are getting more money than they ought to have or are using to best advantage. Some of this money ought to go to the support of the public schools. On the whiskey question he was a local optionist and stood for leaving this question to the counties to settle. Four years ago he had advocated county dispensaries and had then predicted that if a county dispensary was established it would return a larger profit than had been obtained from the State dispensary. Results had vindicated his predictions.

In concluding Mr. Sanders called attention to the fact that the rural districts had no representation on the legislative delegation, also that where there had been opposition from the city of Sumter no candidate from the county for a county office had been elected in recent years. On this account he thought it time for the county to be recognized and that a member of the legislative delegation should be elected from the county. He felt competent to properly represent the county in the Senate, otherwise would not be a candidate. He had served Sumter county as a representative in the House and his record was an open book. His experience thus gained would enable him to give good service in the Senate.

On the personal use and keeping of liquor he said he was in favor of the repeal of the section of the law, if it means what Judge Memminger says it does.

Senator J. H. Clifton.
Senator Clifton said in his opening remarks that he was appreciative of the vote he received four years ago and sensible of the honor the citizens of Sumter county had conferred upon him when they elected him to represent them in the Senate. He had endeavored to be worthy of the honor and deserving of the confidence of the people by giving them the very best service of which he was capable. His record in the Senate was public property, a matter of record, open to inspection and he not only did not shrink from criticism, but invited it and challenged anyone who is so minded to attack it at any point they thought it vulnerable.

He said he favored good roads and would lend his efforts, his time, and whatever ability he had, as well as much of his means as he could spare to the furtherance of the campaign. He reviewed his work in behalf of the Remberts High School—introducing the bill authorizing the bond issue, and then placed the bonds at the lowest possible rate of interest. He declared himself the friend and advocate of education and had worked for the schools and colleges. He is also a believer in adequate pensions for the old soldiers, and would always be found championing their cause.

On the liquor question he said that the time of the legislature had been wasted for the past eighteen years in wrangling over the liquor problem and he thought it time for this to cease. He reviewed his record in the Senate on the liquor issue, showing that he was and is now a local optionist and had been one of the first to suggest that the question be referred to the wet counties to determine at the ballot box whether they wanted prohibition or the dispensary. He believed in letting the people of each county decide the question. He was opposed to State-wide prohibition so long as the public sentiment of a number of the counties is against it, and so long as the Federal law permits the shipping of liquor into prohibition territory. While the liquor interests have the protection of the Federal constitution there is no hope of the enforcement of a prohibition law, and for this reason is opposed to a State-wide law for South Carolina. Under present conditions there is no hope of the enforcement of prohibition in Charleston, Georgetown, or Aiken, where the people are opposed to such a law.

In reference to Judge Memminger's construction of the Carey-Cothran law he said that Judge Memminger was right, insofar as the letter of the law was concerned, that the law said exactly what Judge Memminger declared it to mean. He then went into a discussion of the Inter-state commerce law, showing that the section making it unlawful for an individual to receive or keep liquor for personal use will not stand the test of the courts.

Time was called on Mr. Clifton before he had concluded, but he declined to trespass upon the time of others.

Superintendent of Education.
Dr. J. Herbert Haynsworth, candidate for County Superintendent of Education, made a very attractive talk, outlining his views on education and the needs of Sumter county in particular. He told of his qualifications and pledged himself to give the office a business-like and efficient administration.

Mr. J. Edwin Rembert, who also asks to be Superintendent of Education, reviewed his service in this office before Lee county was cut off,

at which time the duties were more arduous. He outlined his policy, saying among other things that he would strive to establish a first class high school in every school district, so that a first class education would be brought within the reach of all children of school age.

Magistrate.
Mr. S. D. Cain, candidate for magistrate in the Fourth District was the next speaker, and he was followed by Mr. J. F. Ingram, his opponent for that office.

Congressman A. F. Lever.
When Mr. Lever was introduced he was received with applause, the first and only speaker to be thus complimented. He made a capital speech in the limited time given him, it having been agreed between himself and Dr. Ray, his opponent, to speak only twenty-five minutes each. When Mr. Lever's time was up the crowd demanded that he continue, so he spoke about ten minutes longer. He gave a running review of his work for the district, telling what he had accomplished in a practical way for his constituents and what he hoped to achieve in the future.

He then took up the charge that he had violated his pledge as a democrat and had proved a traitor to his party by voting for the tariff on lumber. He read the party platform on this question and then stated his position, which was in brief, that a tariff for revenue is a democratic doctrine, that a tariff is necessary to the support of the government, that the tariff on lumber was a tariff for revenue, that it did not levy one cent tax on any person in this district, that it was a tariff on Canadian lumber and that the people of the extreme Northern and Eastern States paid it, and that it benefitted the lumbermen of the South in that it kept open a market for the lower grades of lumber for which there is no market in the South. He said further that but for this tariff on lumber which yields about \$3,000,000 a year, the tax would have been higher on other articles which would have been a tax on the South. He had endeavored to get bagging and ties put on the free list, but failed, although the Republicans had secured free binding twine for the benefit of the western grain farmers. He also worked to get commercial fertilizers on the free list, but as this is a tax largely paid by the South he failed.

Dr. W. W. Ray.
Dr. W. W. Ray, of Richland, who is opposing Mr. Lever, consumed practically his entire time in an attack on Mr. Lever's vote on the lumber tariff. He made a strictly party argument, claiming that all Democratic congressmen were bound to vote for free lumber by the party platform. He read a letter from Mr. H. J. McLaurin, Jr., to lumbermen urging them to support Lever and Ellerbe as a return for their services to lumbermen. This he construed to mean that the tariff on lumber had benefitted the saw-mill men at the expense of the balance of the people. He also asserted that a committee of lumbermen from Sumter, Darlington and Clarendon had gone to Columbia and begged the State to let up on Lever and Ellerbe about their vote for a tariff on lumber.

Dr. Ray received a respectful hearing but he made little or no impression on the crowd, for it was a Lever crowd all the way through.

HELPS COMMON SCHOOLS.

Winthrop Gives Member of Faculty to That Important Work.

Columbia, Aug. 9.—At a meeting of the executive committee of the board of trustees of Winthrop college yesterday in the governor's office action was taken of considerable interest to the rural schools of South Carolina. The committee elected Miss Lella A. Russell of the Winthrop training school to the position of county supervisor of rural schools. The sum of \$1,000 of the money needed for the Southern Education board. This sum was supplemented by the executive committee with \$200.

It is the purpose to select some county for this important experiment in the supervision of rural schools. Miss Russell will go to the rural schools in the county to be selected and actually help the teacher in her school room work, showing her how to manage and teach the children in each grade.

Miss Russell will retain a connection with Winthrop college and will give some instructions in rural school methods to the Winthrop seniors so as to turn their attention to rural school work and better prepare them for it. In this way the benefits of normal training secured at Winthrop will be assured for the country schools as never before. Winthrop's efficiency as a teacher training institution will thus be strengthened and the country schools will be greatly helped.

A straight oar seems crooked in the water; it does not only import that we see the thing, but how and after what manner we see it.—Montaigne.