

FELDER DARES BLEASE.

"HUB HANDED ME \$500; DESTROY THIS LETTER."

T. B. Felder in a Bitter Arraignment of Cole L. Blease, Publishes Two Interesting Letters in the Atlanta Constitution—Challenges to Libel Suit or Duel.

Atlanta, June 4.—The Atlanta Constitution yesterday published a most sensational open letter addressed "To Cole L. Blease" and signed by Thomas B. Felder. This letter follows one of a more general character addressed to many newspapers.

Charges of the gravest nature are made against the governor of South Carolina, and he is challenged to go into it. United States courts for redress. Two letters signed "Cole" alleged to have been addressed to a liquor establishment, one asking for pay for services and the other acknowledging the receipt of \$500, and expressing doubt of "Hub's" reliability in money matters, are printed.

He says in part: "If the charges I make are false, they are libelous per se, and I am suitably solvent."

Moreover, with apologies to the shades of my departed ancestors, I in modesty (?) claim to be your equal, and if you are aggrieved by the charges, it will be my pleasure to meet you at such time and place without the confines of your State that may suit your convenience, to the end that abundant opportunity may be afforded to redress your grievances.

If my charges are groundless and libelous and you do not wish to seek personal satisfaction, you can institute suit against me in the United States court in the city of Atlanta—should it be objected, however, that this is my home county, then in any of the subdivisions of the district. As soon as suit is filed I hereby promise and agree, in order to facilitate and expedite the same and by way of circumventing any excuse you may offer for inaction, that I will acknowledge service and will enter into a recognition with good and approved security in an amount covering the sum sued for, the fees of your counsel and the cost of court, together with your personal expenses and the expense of your witnesses; the only condition of the bond to be that you shall finally prevail in the litigation.

An investigation of this court will disclose that it is presided over by a disinterested jurist, who, in the administration of the laws, knows neither friend nor foe, and while his decisions are occasionally reversed, they abound in such rigid integrity that they are universally interpreted to be "without variableness or shadow of turning."

Then follow the direct charges on which Blease is invited to base his suit for libel. They affect his conduct while senator from Newberry in dealing with persons selling supplies to the State dispensary.

Here are two letters as presented by Col. Felder:

"I use your own language: From the 'mountain of evidence' in my possession I submit for your consideration 'a few grains of sand.' In doing so I omit the names of the addressees:

"Dear Sir: I am greatly surprised that you failed to call upon me during your recent visit to Columbia and arrange the matter as promised. Spoke to Hub about it and he referred me to you. Have performed all services as agreed both as to matters pending here and as to the last purchase by the board. Let me hear from you at once. Read and destroy.

Yours very truly,

(Signed.) "Cole."

This letter was written by you during a session of the legislature of the State of South Carolina, in the month of February, 1905, to the representative of a well known liquor house which has had large transactions with the State dispensary. Thereafter, on March 16, 1905, you addressed another communication to the same party, as follows:

"Dear Sir: Since writing you on the 26th ultimo, saw Hub. He handed me the five hundred. Hereafter either deal directly with me or through J. F. Confidentially, can not rely on Hub in money matters. Hope to see you soon and report happenings. Very truly yours,

(Signed) "Cole."

Other charges about the methods of securing votes in the primary election last summer follow, and Felder closes in a caustic taunt to the governor of South Carolina to seek vindication.

Commenting on the letter, the Atlanta Constitution says editorially: The Constitution publishes elsewhere an interesting, though somewhat personal, communication addressed by Hon. Thomas B. Felder to Gov. Blease of South Carolina. To those who know Col. Felder and

who are informed as to the chaos existing in the political affairs of South Carolina, is it scarcely necessary to say that the governor of South Carolina has, to say the least of it, taken a circuitous route to attack Mr. Felder, his allegation, as mysterious and misty as it is, relating to an event of seven years ago. If there had been anything in the governor's position, he was recreant to his duty in not having given the people of his State the benefit of his information before now, when he suddenly springs an attack on Col. Felder in a general fusillade in which he assaults at the same time many prominent citizens of South Carolina.

Gov. Blease seems to have a way of running amuck, and that he has done so in this instance no one who knows Col. Felder will doubt.

PAROLED BY GOV. BLEASE

Four Convicts Free During Good Behavior.

Columbia, June 5.—Gov. Blease late this afternoon paroled, during good behavior, Martin McCreary, of Barnwell, serving twelve years for manslaughter since 1901; Clinton and Bertha Harmon, of Abbeville, serving eleven years since 1907 for manslaughter, and Charley Graham, of Sumter, who was sentenced to three years in 1910 for larceny of a bicycle. Martin McCreary has served ten years of his sentence, and had but a short while to serve if the regular time is taken off for good behavior. Solicitor James E. Davis wrote in the McCreary case that the man ought to be pardoned.

LUMBER COMPANY HAS CLAIM.

D. W. Alderman Firm Presents Complaint Against Rates Filed by Atlantic Coast Line.

Washington, June 3.—The D. W. Alderman Lumber company today filed a complaint against the Atlantic Coast Line and the Southern railways, alleging unjust and unreasonable rates on shipments of lumber from Marion, S. C., to Canton, N. C. The rate between these points, it is claimed, should not exceed 17.8 cents per hundred pounds, this being the rate to Landrum, 262 miles from Marion.

"The rate as charged by defendants is unjust and unreasonable," the complaint says, "as compared with rates for similar distances, inasmuch as it makes a lower rate for this business moved the same distance between the same points when shipped on local bills of lading from Marion to Landrum and to Canton than when shipped on through bills of lading from Marion to Canton."

Reparation is asked and the commission is requested to fix a fair rate between the points named.

MAY INDICT FELDER MONDAY.

BILL WILL BE HANDED TO NEWBERRY GRAND JURY.

Atlanta Attorney Charged with Attempting to Bribe State Official and Conspiracy — Governor Blease, H. H. Evans, John Bell Towill and L. W. Boykin Expected to Appear as Witnesses—Governor Blease and "Hub" Evans on Felder's Letters.

Columbia, June 5.—It is learned tonight that at Newberry Monday Thomas B. Felder, the Atlanta attorney, will probably be formally indicted. It is understood that the indictment will be in accord with the warrant recently sworn out against Col. Felder, charging him with offering a bribe and conspiracy to defraud the State.

The following witnesses, it is also learned, have been summoned to appear at court:

Governor Cole L. Blease, H. H. Evans, of Newberry; John Bell Towill, of Batesburg, and L. W. Boykin, of Camden.

The information at hand is that the bill of indictment will be placed before the grand jury upon the convening of court at Newberry Monday.

In regard to the open letter of Col. T. B. Felder, published in the Atlanta Constitution several days ago charging in effect that Governor Blease, when a State Senator, represented certain liquor houses, and otherwise reflecting on South Carolina's Chief Executive in connection with the old State dispensary, Governor Blease today had the following to say: "I do not care to say anything as to such stuff emanating from a man that I have made a requisition for to answer to corrupt practices in attempting to bribe the former State official of this State. I shall not be diverted from my purpose to bring him to justice. The public will soon learn how foolish, malicious and foul have been and are the charges made against me by such persons and their friends, and will see how they will be confounded in their own filth. Let them go on. The commission will continue their work of investigation, and I will do my best to have Felder answer for the violation of our law and his friends here will find that there is a day of reckoning."

Referring to Col. Felder's recently issued open letters, "Hub" H. Evans, of Newberry, who was in Columbia today, entered a sweeping denial to all allegations made by Felder concerning himself (Evans) in connection with the old State dispensary affairs and signifies his readiness to meet all charges made, even to the extent of giving "them personal satisfaction" at any time and place they

or either of them may desire.

Columbia, June 5.—"We are going to do everything we can to aid the commission," said Dr. W. J. Murray, of this city, the former dispensary board chairman, tonight. "Yes," he will appear before the commission tomorrow," he added.

Rumor had it here a few days ago that Dr. Murray was going to sue the new commission for damages. Dr. Murray was asked about this and he, while admitting that the same had been suggested, remarked that he was not going to do this.

You know it would have to be a suit against the individual members and not against the commission as a whole, any way," Dr. Murray explained. The story of his suing in any event was denied by Dr. Murray in his statement to this correspondent.

Commission Meets Today.

Columbia, June 5.—The dispensary commission meets tomorrow. The commission will have members of the old commission before it with the vouchers, about which Chairman Murray, of the old commission will also receive a letter from State Treasurer Jennings, to the effect that four of the five banks, where the commission seeks to have the \$25,000 placed on deposit are not State depositories.

The new commission has engaged an expert accountant, who has been working on the books of the dispensary commission and accounts incident thereto. This is regarded as an important feature of the work being done by the commission's order.

Florence Reaching Out.

The Times has been informed by a gentleman in a position to know, that with the opening of the through line to the west, and the institution of a package train service from Chicago to Florence, the Armour company might be induced to put its distributing depot here instead of in Sumter. Up to this time the Armour people used Sumter because the freight to that point was less than to this, everything coming over the Southern and its connections to Columbia and being rebilled. Now the conditions are changed. The short line to Florence by the new Chicago and Florence road and the package trains give a great convenience which the great meat houses would naturally be quick to avail themselves of, but which has not been done so far. This would be a great thing for Florence and it is a pity, as we see things, that there is not an organization here that could take up a lot more that would make Florence investments worth more.—Florence Times.

NEW BUILDINGS IN MAYESVILLE.

The Town is Growing and Improvements are The Order of the Day.

Mayesville, June 5.—The building wave which struck Mayesville about two years ago still continues and many are the improvements going on. R. F. DesChamps and W. G. Thomas are completing handsome residences on West LaFayette street, Dr. J. H. Mills, J. D. Blackwell, and Miss Emma Mayes have modern homes in process of construction on Church street, and E. G. Spencer and C. Taylor are preparing to build residences in other parts of the town. Still other residences will probably be built within the next few months. In the business section of town, the large Mayes building on the corner of West LaFayette and Main streets is nearing completion. This building will contain the new quarters of the Bank of Mayesville, which will be equipped as conveniently and attractively as any of the smaller banks of the State. The building will contain two large store rooms and offices and when finished will be one of the handsomest and most modern business buildings in the town. The new stores of the Mayes Hardware company and W. H. Dean are now completed and occupied and add greatly to the business section.

R. J. Mayes, Jr., has been appointed a trustee of the Mayesville school to succeed S. M. McCall, who moved to Florence sometime ago. The selection of Mr. Mayes should give entire satisfaction to all concerned. The election of teachers for the school here will be held in the near future. An entirely new faculty will have to be chosen, it is reported.

The citizens of the town held a mass meeting some weeks ago for the purpose of taking steps toward securing a new station here. A committee consisting of Rev. H. A. Knox, J. W. Cooper and J. F. Bland was appointed to interview the proper authorities on the matter. The committee saw the Coast Line Officials in Florence and laid their claims before them. Nothing has been heard as yet from the officials in regard to the matter and probably some further steps will be taken soon to push the railroad people up. The town needs a modern station in keeping with the present progress and growth of the place. The railroad business has increased wonderfully here within the past five years and the company will no doubt see the justice of the town's claim for better facilities.

The refreshing rains of the past few days have improved the crops and other vegetation to a large extent and the prospects are much better for cotton and corn especially. Garden truck has suffered greatly and the rains came too late to benefit some vegetables, such as cabbage.

The oats crop has been harvested and in most cases has turned out better than expected.

Mayor N. D. Womble has gone to his home at Sanford, N. C., for a few days. Relief Agent Webster is in charge of the Coast Line offices in his absence.

Mr. and Mrs. R. F. DesChamps have returned from their extended bridal tour in the North and Canada.

Mrs. R. A. Chandler, Jr., and little daughter, are visiting relatives in Society Hill.

Mrs. W. B. Smith and daughter, of Folkston, Ga., are visiting her mother, Mrs. M. M. Mayes.

Miss Carrie Mayes, of Whiteville, N. C., is at home for a vacation of a few weeks.

Misses Fannie Chandler, Hattie Mayes, Nettie Mayes and Sadie Mayes are at home from their respective colleges for the summer vacation.

BAILEY ON BLACK RACE.

Must Admit Their Inferiority and Keep It Constantly in Mind.

Washington, June 5.—Senator Joseph W. Bailey of Texas, addressing a gathering of Confederate veterans, tonight declared that if the two races are to live in peace in this country, it must be with the black race in constant recognition of its inferiority.

Speaking of Jefferson Davis, in observance of whose birthday the gathering was held, Senator Bailey said he was less responsible for the conflict between the States than any other man, and was the last man in all the South to abandon the hope of a reconciliation.

"The truth of history was with the Confederate people," said the senator. "The fathers would never have formed this Union if they had not believed that it could be dissolved for cause. If the Southern people believed they could not remain in the Union with honor and safety they had a right to secede."

There was applause when Senator Bailey presented an aged negro, James A. Jones, who had served as Mr. Davis's body servant. "He is the only man living," said Senator Bailey, "who knows where the seal of the Confederate States is, and he won't tell."

Many shook hands with the old negro, who had Jefferson Davis' name with him.

The work of clearing out Turkey Creek canal has been started and the mud that has been thrown over the bank smells to heaven as it bakes in the sun.

Sumter county alone buys annually a sufficient number of wagon baggies and carriages to keep a factory busy for a month or so making them.

R. U. A. BOOSTER?

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Booster Week--From June 5 to 12, 8:30 P. M.
25,000 Extra Votes

25,000 votes over and above the regular scale will be given for every club of 5 yearly subscriptions to the Item, or 10 yearly subscriptions to the Watchman and Southron, from Monday, June 5 to Monday, June 12, at 8:30 P. M

Every reader should pay a subscription this week and help some deserving young lady to win. Both Old and New subscriptions count.