

Manning Replies to Governor Blaise

Richard I. Manning of Sumter gave out the following statement yesterday afternoon:

"As I introduced the resolution in the meeting of the State executive committee, the reference in the governor's message is certainly to me and justice to myself demands that I take notice of it.

"Some time ago I expressed my determination not to recognize the existence of two factions in this State and I am determined now not to do so, but this does not imply that I shall not resist an unwarranted attack which is misleading and unjust.

"I did introduce a resolution of investigation and did it because I was unwilling that charges of wholesale fraud should remain uninvestigated. These charges were made by friends of both sides. The resolution introduced by me is as follows:

"Whereas notice of protests has been filed with this committee, charging among other things widespread fraud and irregularities and

"Whereas, under a former resolution passed by this committee, certain investigations are being made as to the conduct of the election held August 27, 1912, and full reports have not yet been made thereon, and in some counties have not been completed.

"Therefore, be it Resolved, That a subcommittee of seven members of this committee be appointed by the chairman, to hear and pass upon all contests and all matters of every kind and description properly subject of action by this committee as a whole, pertinent or incident to the election held on August 27, 1912, with full power and authority to take testimony and make a full investigation of the conduct of said election and report the same, together with all testimony and all records, back to this committee, for action at a meeting to be called by the chairman for that purpose.

"That the said committee be, and hereby is, given power and authority to employ, at the expense of this committee, such assistance as may be deemed advisable to further the said investigation, and shall have as full power and authority to summon witnesses, require the production of papers and records and do any and all other acts necessary to a full and complete investigation of the conduct of said election as has this committee as a whole.

"The actual expenses of the committee shall be borne by the treasurer of this committee."

"I quote from the governor's message: 'The governor publicly stated on the State house steps that the other side had stolen more votes and put them in the ballot box than they knew what to do with.'

"There were equally emphatic charges on the other side. As a member of the executive committee I acted in the capacity of a judge, not a partisan. I felt that the surest way to put an end to these charges was, if possible, to ascertain whether or not they were true and I favored an investigation that would prove as thorough and as expeditious as possible.

"At the end of this meeting I was called to a distant State by illness in my family and was, therefore, unable to serve on the committee of investigation. Upon my return to South Carolina I wrote the chairman of the State executive committee, John Gary Evans, under date of September 20, 1912, in part as follows:

"The political situation over the State demands, in my opinion, that the result of the primary election be speedily settled. As I was the author of the subcommittee resolution, I desire to state that I introduced it for the purpose of expediting the work at hand to save expense and reach a determination at the first possible day, and realizing that I would be unable to serve on the committee immediately, because I was leaving the State the next day and did not know when I could return, I thought that some one else could be placed on it, who could do the work without delay.

"I feel that, unless it is shown at the Spartanburg meeting of the subcommittee on the 24th inst. that the primary election was vitiated either by fraud or general irregularities amounting to legal fraud or it is shown at that meeting that there is strong probability that such will be shown to be the case, in the interest of the future of the Democratic party of this State and for the good of the people of the State, the State committee had better reconvene, determine from the report of the subcommittee and such other evidence as may be laid before the State committee, whether or not there is justification for continuing the investigation, and if there is not justification then to dispose of the contest and declare the result.

"But in any event, I think that the

State committee should meet, not later than next Thursday, the 26th, to take affirmative and final action on the matter."

"At a subsequent meeting of the State executive committee it was I who introduced the resolution declaring the result.

"That resolution reads as follows: 'Mr. Chairman: As I was the mover of the resolution providing for the appointment of the subcommittee to investigate the charges of fraud in the primary election of August 27, I desire now to say to this committee and through them to the people of the State that the subcommittee appointed to prosecute the inquiry has been at work, that it had the assistance of attorneys and citizens interested in exposing fraudulent voting in that election. That the subcommittee has made its report, that report shows that illegal and irregular voting was practiced, that great looseness prevailed in the conduct of that election and that the rules of the party, lax as they are, were not adhered to, that abuses and violation of the rules and failure to observe them were numerous, yet that report does not prove enough to upset the election, that the returns on their face show that one of the candidates for governor received a majority of the votes, that in order to upset that showing it would be necessary to prove beyond any reasonable doubt that fraud was practiced, and practiced to such an extent as to vitiate the election and to change the result.

"In my opinion, that has not been proved, and it is therefore proper for us to proceed to tabulate the returns and to declare the result. If we do this and declare the result as to the nominees of the Democratic party, we will then be ready to go into the general election with the united support of the Democrats of the State under their party obligation to support the nominees of the party and every Democrat who took the oath and voted in the primary election can fulfill that party obligation and the party remain united.

"I ask that this action be taken by this committee. 'This result I am frank in saying, is not in accord with my personal wishes, for I supported Judge Jones for governor and earnestly desired his election, but I am and have been, ready at all times to do my full duty as a member of this committee, representing all the Democrats of this State and I now purpose to discharge that duty by moving that we proceed to tabulate the returns and declare the results.'

"It would seem to any fair minded man this statement would reveal the fact that I acted consistently throughout—not as an advocate but in the capacity of a judge and as one who earnestly desired the welfare of the white man's party in this State and eagerly wishing to preserve the integrity of the Democratic party in South Carolina and the integrity of the primary urged a thorough and speedy investigation and at the conclusion of the hearing was just enough and fair enough to move that the result of the election be declared in favor of Gov. Blaise, for whom I did not vote. I have stood always and stand now in favor of honest elections. I made no charges; on the contrary I stated frequently that in my own county I knew that the election was fair and honest. It would have been grossly unjust for me to pretend to advocate where I had previously condemned.

"As to my 'political death-knell' there are things far worse than defeat—one of them is disloyalty to duty—I did my duty as I saw it and for this I have no apology to make. I do not fear defeat—I prefer defeat rather than victory won by faithlessness to a trust—I prefer defeat rather than a victory won by the division of our people; but if I know the people of my State, I feel that they will not vote against me because I fearlessly did my duty as I saw fit, when to shirk that duty would have been the politic thing to do. South Carolinians honor a man for being true to his convictions, true to duty—but South Carolinians detest a coward."

"Governor Blaise's Rejoinder. Columbia, Jan. 13.—When shown the statement by Mr. Manning this afternoon Gov. Blaise made the following rejoinder:

"I will take care of Mr. Manning and his record on the stump in 1914 if he runs for governor or for United States senator just as I did in 1906, when I retired him from the governor's race and Governor Ansel was elected. He may offer excuses, but white men in South Carolina who voted for me will never forget that he charged them with perjury and corruption and that when he was appointed on a committee dodged the issue and threw the responsibility on others."

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THE LEGISLATURE.

EUGENE B. GARY RE-ELECTED CHIEF JUSTICE.

House Killed Baskin Bill for Repeal of the Mileage Book Law.

Columbia, Jan. 15.—Eugene B. Gary, of Abbeville, was unanimously re-elected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, for a term of ten years this morning by the joint assembly. Senator Mars, of Abbeville, nominated Chief Justice Gary.

House Killed Baskin bill repealing mileage book law by heavy vote this morning.

Judge Gage Elected to Supreme Bench.

Columbia, Jan. 15.—On the second ballot the joint assembly elected Judge Geo. W. Gage, of Chester, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court to succeed Associate Justice Charles A. Wood, resigned. The final ballot stood: Geo. W. Gage, 99; Thomas S. Sease, 37; George S. Mowry, 20; J. W. DeVore, 6.

John S. Wilson, of Manning was re-elected judge of Third circuit, without opposition.

Hayne F. Rice, of Aiken, was re-elected judge of Second circuit, without opposition.

Judge Bowman Re-elected.

I. W. Bowman of Orangeburg was re-elected Judge of the First Circuit without opposition.

Judge Spain Re-elected.

Columbia, Jan. 15.—Thomas H. Spain, of Darlington, today was re-elected Judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit without opposition.

Frank B. Gary Re-elected.

Columbia, Jan. 15.—Frank B. Gary was elected without opposition to succeed himself as judge of the Eighth circuit.

Elections Next Tuesday Night.

Columbia, Jan. 15.—The joint assembly adjourned at 2 o'clock this afternoon, agreeing to take up the election of a State librarian, an insurance commissioner, and various trustees on next Tuesday night at 8 o'clock.

MOORE TO SUCCEED GAGE.

Lancaster Man Elected to Office of Circuit Judge.

Columbia, Jan. 15.—To succeed Associate Justice George W. Gage, as judge of sixth circuit, the following were nominated: Geo. W. H. Hart, of Yorkville; Glenn W. Ragsdale, of Winnsboro; Solicitor J. K. Henry, of Chester; Ernest Moore, of Lancaster. The first ballot resulted: Hart, 44; Ragsdale 5; Henry 6; Moore 82; the total vote was 162; necessary to a choice 82. Mr. Moore was declared elected.

Columbia, Jan. 15.—Senator Carlisle of Spartanburg would outlaw every social club engaged in the selling of alcoholic liquors in South Carolina. He introduced into the senate today a bill, making every member of these so-called social clubs culpable and providing a fine of \$500 or six months imprisonment for violation of the act. What constitutes a breach of the law in this State under this proposed act is keeping, aiding or abetting a said social club where liquors are sold.

There was considerable discussion in the senate today of Senator Laney's bill, changing the period of school text book adoption from five to ten years. Senator Laney denounced the present system of adoption and declared that the school books are going from bad to worse. The matter was not finally settled.

Senator Lide's bill, providing that statements of accounts rendered shall be deemed legally to be correct, was killed.

The bill providing against hazing in State institutions went to a third reading in the senate today.

The Spartanburg delegation's bill, providing for a new union station in that city with the Clifton amendment in Sumter was recommitted and will come before the railroad committee at a meeting Friday afternoon.

In the house, Representative Holly has an amendment to the liquor drummer act in which it is provided that any drummer appearing before a county dispensary board shall be fined \$1,000 or imprisoned six months or both, in the discretion of the court, and a provision is inserted that the informant shall be paid \$1,000.

Cotton Ginned in County.

According to the government figures report 39,971 bales of cotton were ginned in Sumter county for 1913 up to January 1, 1914, against 22,945 bales ginned up to the same time for the year previous. The total for the State during the year is set at 1,342,827 bales for 1913 and 1,173,216 for 1912. Sumter county comes ninth in the amount of cotton ginned in the various counties of the State.

BANK OF SUMTER PRIZES.

W. F. BAKER AND W. R. WELLS WIN FIRST PRIZES IN ROTATION CROP CONTEST.

Mr. S. J. White Comes in Second—No Other Prizes Awarded as Contestants Failed to Observe Rules—\$200 Given Away in Prizes by the Bank of Sumter.

In its crop rotation and soil building contest, the Bank of Sumter today announced the winners of the prizes and gave \$200 to farmers of the county. The contest is one of the most unique crop growing contests of its kind ever devised and is for the purpose of encouraging farmers to build up their soils and grow crops at less cost.

The first prize for yield was won by W. F. Baker of Rocky Bluff, \$65.

The first prize for growing the crops on three acres at least cost was awarded to W. R. Wells of Rocky Bluff and the second prize for crop at small cost was won by Mr. S. J. White of Concord, \$65 and \$35, respectively.

The contest was managed under the supervision of the Bank of Sumter, through Mr. L. L. Baker, district demonstration agent, and J. Frank Williams, local demonstration agent. These gentlemen went over the reports and saw that they were made out according to the rules of the contest and another committee went over the reports and declared the winners of the prizes.

The rules called for the planting of at least three acres in corn, cotton and oats and peas. These crops will be changed on the lands each year during three years, being planted in rotation on the three acres, and special cover crops of rye, vetch, crimson or burr clover to be planted with other crops or in the fall after they are gathered.

The following is the list of crops grown by the prize winners: W. F. Baker, winner of \$65 for largest yield, corn, 88 1-2 bushels at a cost of \$19.02; oats, 7005 pounds at a cost of \$2.57; cotton, 1,983 pounds at a cost of \$14.35.

W. R. Wells, winner of \$65 for best corn, 87 23-25 bushels at a cost of \$28.16; oats, 4487 pounds at a cost of \$3.66; cotton, 1969 pounds at a cost of \$15.86.

S. J. White, winner of \$35 for second best corn, 60 5-10 bushels; oats, 3345 pounds; cotton 1439 pounds.

A contestant was eligible for only one prize. The second prize for yield was not awarded for this reason because other contestants did not follow the rules laid down by the committee and mapped out by the demonstration farm department.

The committee closes its report by stating that the outlook for the coming year is very promising.

Col. Pendleton Near End.

Macon, Jan. 15.—Col. Pendleton, editor of the Macon Telegraph, condition today was reported critical. The end is expected any hour.

Moyer and Associates Indicted.

Houghton, Mich., Jan. 15.—President Moyer of the Western Federation of Miners and thirty-seven other members were indicted for conspiracy by the grand jury here today.

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Sumter Dental Parlors,
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AT
The Bank of Sumter

No forfeiture of payments if you get behind. Join early and get in on the ground floor.

The Officers of the First National Bank

Extend their thanks to the people of Sumter and vicinity for their hearty support during the past year. The development of the business of this bank during the Year 1913 was especially gratifying. It was a practical demonstration of your confidence in our conservative business methods and an appreciation of the service we give. However, we have not reached the stage where we are willing to rest. We hope to add many new accounts between now and 1915. We are equipped to care for more business and to give even better service than that of the past year.

First National Bank
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The Peoples' Bank