

OFFICE SEEMERS.

THE CANDIDATES WAD TO MEET AT CAMPAIGN MEETING TUESDAY.

Meeting Was Orderly and Attention Given to Speakers—Gov. Manning Different from Former Campaign Meetings.

Spoken from a platform erected in the rear of the county court house, the candidates were each given a fair and attentive hearing by the crowd which was estimated from one to two thousand people, who were seated under the trees or stood in the shade during the whole of four and a-half hours in order not to miss a word of the campaign oratory. The candidates remained to the last, and the Gov. Manning were delighted with this feature, as they argued that the people were especially anxious to hear him give an account of his administration.

The feature of the meeting was the careful attention given each candidate, an attention which was broken only by applause and which was as continuous as compared to the general and continuous bursts of applause at other campaign meetings of the past.

After the minor State officers of that term may be used in the offices which the candidates had their hearers were of great importance, came first. J. Bethes, lieutenant governor, expressed his appreciation of the support which the people of the county had given him two years ago and assured them that he would do his duty in office as he saw fit. He expressed his pride in being a member of the Ford Peace Expedition, saying that he considered it a great fortune to have the opportunity to go to Europe to study conditions there in order that he might be able to help the people here what he had seen and might apply this knowledge to the benefit of the State.

He favored intensive vocational education, biennial sessions of the legislature, a four-year term for the State officers, and he paid tribute to Governor Woodrow Wilson, as leader of the Democratic party. He stated that he operated a school and was a member of the board of education. He stated that he could prove the importance of the office of lieutenant governor, and that he would do his duty in office as he saw fit on his merits, saying that he had the unanimous endorsement of the senate in his capacity as lieutenant of that body.

Dr. C. L. Adams of Columbia sought the same office, lieutenant governorship. He took up most of his time in abuse of the incumbent, saying that he was a graduate of Clemson College and of the South Carolina Medical College. He stood for law enforcement and for the Ford Peace Expedition. He said he could prove that he ran a pool room and offered to withdraw from the race, if he could not do so to any reasonable extent. He would withdraw from the race, if he proved his assertions. He attacked the Ford Peace Expedition and Bethes' participation in it, saying that Bethes should have been attending to his duties instead of going off on a frolic. "Ask the people of Columbia if Bethes was honest," and ask the lawyers of the State if the man who got up the code of 1913 was efficient," he stated. "He does not understand truth and he is a stranger to honesty," he said in referring to Bethes.

Geo. W. Wightman of Saluda, as the first candidate for Secretary of State, stated that he was opposed to the present primary enrollment law. He stated that there was need for more Good Samaritans and less need for laws. He favored the cutting of the salaries of State officers in reducing the expenses of the State.

W. Banks Doss, chief clerk to Secretary of State R. M. McCown, stated that he was a former school teacher and replied to some criticism of his opponent, who asked the voters to send him back to the ranks of educators. He stated that he knew the duties of the office, was intimate with the files in the office and asked that he be elected because he was fit for the office.

D. W. McLaurin, a candidate for State treasurer, stated that his opponent had been drawing the public money for more than twenty years, that he had made affidavit that he was unable to pay tuition of his daughters at Winthrop College, when he was getting a salary of \$1,900 and that he was otherwise unfit for the office he held, while he, McLaurin, was peculiarly fitted for the office.

Mr. S. T. Carter, State treasurer and candidate to succeed himself, stated that his record in the office of treasurer had pleased everyone except his opponent. That when he made the affidavit that he was unable to pay his daughter's tuition to Winthrop that he had no outside interests except his salary and that he was rebuilding his

home, which had been burned. He referred to the sale of State bonds which had meant the saving of many thousands of dollars and other business he had done to the State's advantage because of his alliance with a Columbia bank.

The candidates for railroad commissioner came next. Albert S. Fant of Euton stated that he was the youngest man who had ever sought the office. He had received the unanimous endorsement of his home county in his race.

G. McDuffie Hampton, candidate to succeed himself as railroad commissioner, stated that he was peculiarly fit for the office. The present commissioner worked together in harmony and secured excellent results, he stated. He stated that he knew the duties of the office and asked re-election on this ground.

W. H. Kelley of Spartanburg, seeking the office of railroad commissioner, spoke of the needs of the extension of railroads because this meant the development of the country touched by them.

Capt. W. T. Thrower of Chesterfield county spoke of the methods of making freight rates and handling freight by the railroads, saying that there was no equality of justice in the methods used. He appealed to the farmers, who depended so largely on the railroads to transport their products, to elect him.

James Candler of Tirasah, who had made the race for railroad commissioner before, stated that he would not say how many times he had run for the office, as he was leaving those things behind and looking forward to what was before, as Paul had bid us do. He injected a great deal of good natured fun into the campaign by his sallies and jests at the expense of the other candidates for the same and other offices, keeping the crowd in a roar of laughter the whole time he was speaking. He was not satisfied with standing on the platform, but got upon the board raffing around the edge of the platform. He started off by telling the crowd that they were then looking at the 1917 railroad commissioner and told of his illness two years ago, when he could not campaign for the State, as he was in a hospital. He rapped the express company rates as being unjust.

The candidates for governor were the last to speak. Cole L. Bleese was presented as a former governor of South Carolina by Mr. Clifton. Gov. Bleese spoke slowly and deliberately, carefully choosing his words and weighing in his mind what to say in order to set before his audience in just the right way. His speech was the mildest campaign speech which he has ever made in Sumter. All of the fire and violence of former campaigns was lacking. He did not bother to defend his own record, but attacked that of the present governor. He was given two bouquets of flowers, one merrily marked "For Bleese" and the other from J. W. Harper. There were three or four men on the platform and a few among the crowd who yelled lustily when Gov. Bleese took the stand and cheered him at intervals during his speech. At one time he became engaged in an altercation with a gentleman in the crowd, who, when he referred to the reign of lawlessness in the State at present, asked the speaker if he, Bleese, was not responsible for it by turning so many criminals out of the penitentiary. The speaker asked him, his name and asked the presiding officer to give the gentleman a chance to speak when the candidates were through.

In commencing his speech, the former governor stated that there was no reason why any governor should not be opposed for a second term, saying that he had been opposed when he ran for a second term, nor was there any law to prevent a man seeking the office as often as he wished. He had no excuse or apologies to offer for a single act he had ever performed as governor and he would do the same things over again, if he had the opportunity, for whatever he did it was with the interest of the State at heart, and he did it for the best interest of the State and her people. He attacked Gov. Manning's administration, characterizing it as one of lawlessness and rioting. He said that there was whiskey being sold all over the State, and the officers knew of it. He said these statements could be proved by reference to the solicitor's docket which showed that more cases had been tried in the past eighteen months than during the whole time he was governor. He gave a list of crimes which had been committed, comparing it with those committed during his administration. He charged the administration with being extravagant, more so than any administration since 1876. He stated that offices had been created in order to provide a place for the pets of the administration. He criticized it for the formation of the State Board of Charities and Corrections, saying that it required high salaried officers now to say how the jails and guard houses should be run, when the people already knew how to run them. He stated that the present governor had in the legislature

voted against separation of the races in railway coaches, when he wanted them separated on the chain gangs. He stated that he had cleaned out the jails and chain gangs for nothing. He stated that despite the efforts to trail down those whom he had liberated only three of them had ever been found committing any wrongs since they were liberated.

He stated that his defeat for the United States senate was the best thing that had ever happened to him, as Eddie Smith had promised the farmers fifteen cent cotton, and he asked any who had gotten it to hold up their hands, but no hands went up. He said that if the hard times had come after he had been elected, he would have been blamed for it. Eddie Smith was elected and could explain why the hard times and no fifteen cent cotton had been sold. He criticized the governor for giving Dr. Fred C. Williams more salary than that allowed by law, saying that if he was for law enforcement, then he ought to take out indictment proceedings against himself and Dr. Williams both, as both had broken the law, the one by giving and the other by receiving the additional salary. He thought the railroad freight rates were unjust and stated that the people on the farms had to pay them in the end. He stood for the State warehouse system as the best law ever enacted for the people of the State. He was for six per cent interest. He favored rural credits, as it gave the farmer a chance to buy his own home. He criticized the legislature which had been elected during his previous administrations, by saying that they would not do what he wanted them to. He favored biennial sessions. There was one matter, he stated, which he had mentioned at other places, which, at the request of a friend, he would not mention here, and he asked the crowd to say whether he should discuss it or not. There were several cries of "Let it pass," and one of "let's hear it," and the speaker stated that he would abide by the will of the majority and let the matter pass up. He just wanted to let the people know he was not afraid to discuss it.

Bleese left the stand as soon as he finished his speech. R. A. Cooper of Laurens was the next speaker. Mr. Cooper is a splendid orator and he made a good impression on the audience, even with those whose minds were made up and not intended to vote for him. He was given careful hearing, although among those back of the stand, negroes for the most part, there was considerable hum of talking. He stated that he would not assail the character of any man, as he did not want to secure any office in that way. He wanted it in an honorable way or not at all, not by the shortcomings of others at any rate. He stated that he had entered the race of his own volition. That any man had the right to offer for office, as any man had the right to vote for whom he chose, when he exercised the right of suffrage. If elected he would be the governor of all of the people, or not at all, he declared, a statement which elicited applause. He stated that as governor he would see that the laws of the State, as enacted by the law-making body, were his only guide and that they would be enforced for the best interest of the State. He would not disturb the findings of a jury without good cause, as the pardoning power was given only to correct a mistake and to prevent an injustice.

He was in favor of raising the standard of the public schools to the work done during the first two years at college, as ninety per cent of the white people of the State never secured any education outside of the public schools. He was not in favor of reducing taxes, but of expending the public money so that the State got a dollar's worth for every hundred cents spent. The prosperity of the State depends upon her agriculture, he said, the tenant farmers should therefore be put in a position where they could own their own homes. Only three per cent of the farmer boys in the State could attend Clemson College, he stated, although he was not criticizing Clemson College. He was in favor of State colleges, the only objection being that there were not sufficient of them, and not sufficient boys and girls attending them. He opposed scholarships for a few, when there were so many others who could not get it. He favored allowing any boy or girl, who wanted to, securing a free education, but he thought that when they entered they should be willing to give a bond to repay the money to the State, after they graduated from the institution. He again stated emphatically that he was running because he had a right to run. He was opposed to factionalism, and if elected he would not be under obligation to any man or set of men. He made an appeal to end factionalism, as there was no such thing as working only for one class of people, as what helped one helped all and what hurt one hurt all.

John M. DesChamps was the next speaker. He is a big man physically and seemed to put his whole heart into his speech, which he seemed to enjoy as much as his hearers did parts

stead of lambasting the trusts and monied interests, he stood up for of it. He proved to be a different candidate from the usual type. In them. He praised what they had done to develop the country and stated that a railroad was the greatest blessing which could ever come into a rural community, or words to that effect. He got off some jokes which seemed to amuse the audience and his highlown language indicated that he was indeed somewhat as John T. Duncan described him "a windjammer," or hot air artist. Mr. DesChamps in commencing his campaign speech stated that this was the county which his ancestors had helped to settle and where many of them still lived. He stated that he was opposed to factionalism and had started the fight to kill it. In describing who he was he stated that he was French and Irish, Scotch and English, Jew and German, but a full blooded American citizen withal. He was proud of being of the greatest race in the greatest nation in the greatest State in the world.

He then went on to tell what he stood for. He favored State and national appropriation for the dredging of rivers, as this would prevent much of the floods from which the State had suffered so much. He wanted all of the resources of the State developed and thought that the bringing of capital to the State was the best and surest way of accomplishing these purposes. He stated that too many of the politicians in South Carolina belonged to the class of petty politics and favored the killing out of the old politicians and the introduction of a new class. The monied interests, he said, helped the State and without them little or nothing could be accomplished. He was not working for the combines, but he recognized a good thing when he saw it and did not mind showing it. He said that the people did not have any right to say how a railroad should be operated, or whether it combined or not with other roads, but only when its rates were exorbitant should the public intervene to have the rates reduced. He named over a list of things which could and should be raised in the State, but were imported from middle, northern, and western states. He pointed out the golden opportunities before the people of the State. In concluding he stated that he was a trader and had made what he had by trading. He might not become governor, but he would be so near it, the other fellow would have to slip through the crack to get in. And that he would not swap his chances with anybody else in the race, unless the other fellow gave him a good share of boot.

John T. Duncan spoke next. He charged that Manning, Cooper and Bleese each had a cortege of men paid by the liquor interests following them around. He sent shot after shot at his opponents, and kept the crowd in good humor, rivaling Candler of Tirasah as the wit of the campaign party. He said Manning had made good, when everybody knew Bleese made evil, which accounted for both good and evil. He said Manning could not defend himself from Bleese's lies, much less the truth when Bleese told it. He referred to Bleese as the smoothest, slickest article which the State had ever produced. He said he had finally got Bleese out of the penitentiary, but he had been unable as yet to get Manning out of the asylum. Manning thought he had paid his way and had a right to stay there. He said that the System was making a monkey of Cooper, in referring to him as the connecting link between a man and a monkey. He referred to Gov. Manning as a weakling, in stating that he was the favorite of The System. He said Bleese charged Gov. Manning as being responsible for riots and crimes during his administration, while Bleese's term had been one continuous riot. He said that Manning and Cooper would not get as many votes as Bleese, and that DesChamps would get one vote, and he, Duncan, had a sneaking idea where that vote was coming from, while Duncan would get the rest.

Gov. R. I. Manning got the heartiest applause of the day when he was introduced by Chairman Clifton as a life long resident of Sumter and one who needed no defense at his own or at any other man's hands. There were few yells, but there was a general hand-clapping as the governor rose to speak. Mr. Manning made a good talk. He made a straightforward statement of what he had done and tried to do during his term of office, a speech which received the wholehearted attention of practically everybody present. In referring to conditions which he found at the insane asylum Gov. Manning waxed eloquent and in graphic language depicted the horrible conditions which he had remedied. His speech made a strong impression and won friends for him in the audience.

Gov. Manning stated that he was sorry to keep the audience longer, as he realized how long they had been standing and how tired they were, but he wanted to give an accounting of his term of office and to show the people that he had done what he had promised to do. He stated that he would discuss only some of the issues, as his time was short. He had made the statement in Orangeburg in his campaign for the office of governor two years ago that the paramount issue in the campaign, as he saw it at that time, was law enforcement. He had promised if elected to see that the law was enforced and that the verdicts of juries were not set aside by one man. That issue was still as live as it was two years ago, when this community had not suffered as much as other communities had from lax enforcement of the laws. He stated that he had dismissed that State constabulary which had not been doing its duty and he had endeavored to let localities govern themselves, as he believed in local self-government. In Charleston the local officers had not enforced the laws and he had appointed constables for that city, with instructions to see that the liquor law was enforced and blind tigers closed up. Instructions were to raid a place as much as three times daily, if necessary and some places had been raided every hour of the night, quietly and without violence. Charleston now was better than it had been and the constables and local officers were now endeavoring to see that the law was enforced at all times everywhere.

He had been given \$50,000 by the legislature to enforce the prohibition law of which he had used \$20,000, but he would use the whole amount, if it was necessary to enforce the law. The reports of the solicitors showed that more violations of the law had been tried and convictions secured than ever before. He referred to the executive clemency in forty-five cases during his administration, saying that in only two cases had unconditional pardons been given, and these were where he thought injustice had been done. The pardon board had made the recommendations. He said that by allowing the verdicts of juries to stand, the good people of the State have gained respect for the law caused by the regard for it.

He referred to savings which had been made for the State through the sale of State bonds and the putting of these bonds on the tax books, where they had never been before. The loss of property by the militia had been set aside and the State relieved of a debt of \$32,000. The inequalities of taxation were so glaring that everybody could see them. He had recommended a tax commission which was now studying the inequalities and collecting data with a view of recommending changes which would remove them in the near future. He stated that he would like to discuss the State Board of Charities and Corrections, education and the teaching of farming in the rural schools, the Torrens land system, rural credits and other issues, but he did not have the time.

"I was elected on a law enforcement platform. Have I done it?" he asked. Somebody in the audience replied, "You have done it." "I stood for constructive legislation; have I made good?" he asked. Gov. Manning then entered into a discussion of the State hospital for the insane. He showed the terrible conditions which he had found there on his personal investigations at his inauguration as governor. Then of his efforts to find a man who would assume the duties as superintendent at the salary fixed by the legislature. He showed the note and check which he had given to pay the difference in salary between that he had promised, to Dr. Fred C. Williams and the amount paid by the State, saying that he did not regret the money expended and he would never receive a cent of it back from the State. Applause greeted this statement. He said that he had saved in the operation of the asylum \$34,900 a year while the additional salary paid to Dr. Williams was \$1,700, and asked his audience if this was good business. There were now more doctors and nurses, better food, better clothes and better treatment than ever before. When he had taken charge the inmates were treated as worse than criminals, many of them were strapped down to their couches and many confined in dark loathsome cells, from which they were seldom, if ever, removed. Now there were none locked in the filthy cells, there was only one case where restraint was used and this was a boy whose right hand was tied to keep him from scratching himself. The death rate itself was reduced one-half from what it was when he took charge. He asked if his actions had been right from a business and a humanitarian standpoint and the applause from the crowd indicated that they thought it was.

Gov. Manning received several bouquets of flowers and many of his friends flocked to and around the stand at the conclusion of his speech to congratulate him on his speech.

HIDDEN MINES SUSPECTED. Baltimore, Aug. 1.—The tugs Timmins and Ecco are dragging the channel with a heavy wire drag where the Deutschland must pass when she leaves. It is apparently suspected that mines have been planted.

NEW YORK EPIDEMIC GROWS. Fifty-seven Children Die Within 24 Hours and Health Authorities Call for Help. New York, Aug. 1.—With all previous mortality records in the epidemic of infantile paralysis here broken today when it was reported that 57 children had died during the 24 hour period ending at 10 o'clock this morning, Health Commissioner Emerson found it necessary to call for additional beds in hospitals to care for the affected. The number of new cases reported in the greater city was 159, and it was said that of the 2,438 beds available in public and private hospitals only 150 remained unoccupied. The number of cases of the disease since the epidemic began has been more than 4,000. While the health authorities assert they have the situation well in hand they admit that unless cooler weather sets in the number of new cases probably will be increased by several thousand before the epidemic stage passes.

COAST ARTILLERY ENCAMPMENT.

Five Units in South Carolina Will Undergo Instruction at Fort Moultrie.

Columbia Aug. 2.—The annual encampment of the five units of the coast artillery will be held at Fort Moultrie, August 20 to 23, inclusive, according to an announcement by W. W. Moore, adjutant general. There are about 400 men in the organizations at Greenville, Spartanburg, Gaines, Jonesville and Greenwood.

HOKE SMITH'S BILL PASSED.

Vocational Education Measure Provides Federal Cooperation With States in Practical Training.

Washington, July 31.—The senate today passed Senator Hoke Smith's vocational education bill providing for federal cooperation with the States in promotion of agricultural and industrial education. The postmaster general, the secretaries of interior, agriculture, commerce and labor and the commissioner of education would form a federal board under the measure to supervise the work and to distribute funds. This bill would appropriate \$500,000 for 1917, \$750,000 for 1918 and annually increase the amount by \$250,000 until 1925, after which the annual appropriation would be \$3,000,000. The money would be allotted to the States on the basis of rural population. The measure has not yet passed the house.

BATTLE ON STOKHOD.

Special to The Daily Item.

Petrograd, Aug. 2.—Terrific fighting is in progress on the west bank of the Stokhod river. The Germans are resisting the Russian advance on Koveli. They have been strongly reinforced and are attempting to drive the Russians out of recently captured positions west of Stokhod.

REPAIRS MADE BY BUSINESS MEN.

Road to Camp Moore is in Bad Condition Near Congaree Creek Bridge.

Columbia, Aug. 2.—Several loads of sand were dumped into the road like rats in the public highway west out of Camp Moore yesterday afternoon. Near the Congaree Creek bridge a stretch of this road had become almost impassable, and a group of hands, under the supervision of Ravel S. Patterson, labored five or six hours industriously yesterday to improve the condition of this rough link. Previous to the recent heavy rains the road had been put in excellent condition by combined forces of Richland and Lexington counties, but during the continuous rains the heavy traffic cut the road bed through to the foundation clay. Though much improved in the worst places, many stretches of the road to Styx need attention. Those who contributed to the expense of repairing yesterday were: The Coca-Cola Bottling company, the Chero-Cola Bottling company, the Bludwine Bottling company, Birmingham's bakery and Oehmig's bakery.

Reports from the county concerning the cotton crop are extremely gloomy. The most conservative estimate now places the cotton crop of the county at not above fifty per cent. of an average crop. Some crops are better, but many are worse. Low lands that were not seriously injured by the dry weather in April and May and on which the best cotton crops of the county were growing, have been under water for the better part of three weeks and the cotton is dead or in a dying condition. The annual mountain excursion over the Atlantic Coast Line will be run this year on August 16. The large advertisement in another column gives the rates and other information.