

COUNTY CAMPAIGN OPENS.

REGULAR MEETING AT SHILOH ATTENDED BY CROWD OF ABOUT HUNDRED VOTERS.

Meeting Devoted of Future and Each Candidate Was Given an Attentive Hearing—Claude Truick Presided—Next Meeting at Mayesville Tomorrow.

The initial meeting of the Sumter County political campaign was a very happy affair. There were no features of unusual interest to mark the opening of the campaign. A crowd of about one hundred voters and a number of ladies of the Shiloh and Trinity sections of the county gathered in the grove at Shiloh to hear the speakers, who were given an attentive hearing. There were no ovations given, although each speaker received a portion of applause.

The campaign party is a small one and the campaigners are on the summit of terms, the majority of whom expressing their pleasure at being in the race with their opponents and giving as their only reason for running for office their desire to serve the people.

The trip to Shiloh was made in automobiles by members of the campaign party. There were few persons from Sumter outside of the campaigners, or office holders who will run again two years from now, who attended the meeting at Shiloh.

Just before the speaking commenced a number of the candidates were called on and it was decided that the candidates should speak first with single opponents, the other candidates for the legislature and the candidates for magistracy in the districts where the meetings were held. The minutes were allowed the candidates for supervisor, five for those for coroner and fifteen for those who sought seats in the legislature. Five minutes were given to the candidates for magistracy.

Mr. Claude Truick was asked to preside at the meeting and did so in a highly satisfactory manner, presenting the speakers in their turn in a way calculated to make them feel at their ease. At the outset he asked those present to give the candidates an attentive hearing, as this was the duty of the candidates to speak and for them to listen. In compliance with the request there was little interruption of the speaking and the candidates were called on in the following order:

The unopposed candidates were the first to be called on. J. K. Bradford, candidate for sheriff, thanked the voters for their support four years ago and asked them for a continuance of their suffrage. He appreciated the fact that he had no opposition and assured his hearers that he was better qualified now, because of his experience, to fill the office than during his first term.

Mr. E. L. Scarborough, candidate to succeed himself as clerk of court, said that a man might well be proud of his friends and he had always appreciated what his friends had done for him at Shiloh on former occasions. He had tried to do his duty by his office and had kept the work in the office well up at all times. He promised to continue to conduct the affairs of the office in future so that no one would have occasion to regret supporting him.

For coroner E. E. Wilder stated that he had held the office for a number of years and he was proud to be without opposition at this time, as he indicated that the people were satisfied with the way he had conducted his affairs, and showed their trust and confidence in him. He promised to endeavor in future to give his best efforts in order to give general satisfaction.

County Treasurer B. C. Wallace sought re-election to the office which he had conducted to the best of his ability, with intelligent and business-like methods. He promised to always give courteous treatment and attention to all who had business with the office. He thanked the people for their past support and asked the continuance of their favor.

Supervisor F. M. Pitts was the first speaker who has opposition. He expressed his appreciation for the confidence which had been placed in him in the past eight years. With the county board he had used the money given them to the best advantage for the county, as they saw it. The work in Shiloh township and Sumter county showed for itself what had been done during his term of office. He asked the voters in casting their ballot to consider what had been done and to vote accordingly. He promised to do his best for the county at all times, as he saw his duty, whether he received the support of citizens or not. He asked re-election on his merits and promised to give all of his time to the duties of the office in the future, as he had in the past.

Mr. L. E. White, a candidate for the same office, stated that he had nothing against Mr. Pitts, his only reason

for running was that he wanted the office. "I had just as leave Mr. Pitts have the office as any man in the county, except myself," he stated. He asked the suffrage of the voters of Shiloh and promised, if elected, to give the county an economical administration and to do his duty.

For coroner W. J. Seale was the first speaker. He seeks to succeed himself on his record in office. He had tried to give the county a business-like administration and to save money for the county and to those persons affected in cases where he had been called. He would always give his best attention to the duties of the office and asked the support of the people of Shiloh.

Mr. Jos. R. Singleton stated that he had fought at the Battle of Dingle's Mill and was therefore a war veteran. He asked the ladies to see their sweethearts and get them to vote for him. He wanted a majority of the votes of Shiloh and would thank the voters for them. He stated that when the votes were counted on the 29th of August he hoped that the people of Sumter county would find that "Old Joe Singleton" was coroner of Sumter county. Later Mr. Singleton came back on the stand at his own request to state that he had risked his life in making Wade Hampton governor of South Carolina in 1874. He then read Gov. Hampton's last speech to the Confederate veterans of his command.

The candidates for the house of representatives came in alphabetical order. Mr. Charles L. Cutting, referred to his race for the same office eight years ago when he was defeated. He stated that he did not have the same ideas now as he had then. He had not thought of running for the office since until he had seen a card in the paper inserted by his friends, when he had decided to run for the office. He believed that he was well fitted for the office as any man in the race, as he had been through the trying experience of life which had confronted so many others. He had been a poor boy and had made his living by the sweat of his brow, in his fight to better his condition. He was a farmer and lived on the farm nearly all of his life. He had been raised in Clarendon county, but had moved to Sumter, as a larger field, when he became older. He had never held public office and the only public work he had ever done was the indexing of the records of the county, and any lawyer would say that this job was a good one. He would not have it if it was not needed, as his chief reason for offering for election was that he thought that knowing the troubles of the poor, he might be instrumental in making or in helping to make a law or laws to better the condition or to help some one in need of aid. He discussed the Laney-Odom act and the effect it had had on the insurance companies and insurance in the State. A large number of the fires in the State, he thought, were of incendiary origin, where the insured wanted merely to recover the insurance money. This was a disgrace to the State and severe punishment should be accorded anyone doing this. In referring to the passage of the Laney-Odom act he stated that the legislature had overdone the matter of regulation of insurance companies and the result was that the companies had withdrawn and the rates were increased. He believed in modifying the present law so that it would be to the advantage of the companies and insured also. He favored biennial sessions of the legislature; he thought too many laws were made and that the passage of injurious laws should be prevented. He promised, if elected, to give the duties of the office the same attention which he gave to his individual business.

J. L. Gillis of Reinbert seeks the same office. He said that he was away from his home, but that he was not a stranger in the county, as he had lived in it ever since he was a child. He had begun the battle of life more handicapped than some of his opponents, as he was without a college education. He had always tried to make two blades of grass grow where one grew before, he stated, and this year he had made four grow where one was before, a statement which elicited much laughter from the crowd. He promised to squarely face all matters which came up before him, if elected, and to do at all times what he thought to be best for the county and State. He asked for the support of his hearers and promised at all times to have his heart and eye single to the needs and wishes of every individual in Sumter county. He referred to his service of eight years as magistrate, in which office he had always tried to do his duty. He advocated a lower rate of interest as being for the best interest of the State. He would represent all interests, if elected, as what was good for one was good for all, and what hurt one hurt all. He would not only represent the farmers. He favored the State warehouse system, the best rural schools which could be secured for the funds appropriated for them, pensions for old soldiers and good roads, as far as was consistent. He opposed the creation of new offices, when they were not needed, as they

called for more money to run them. He favored biennial sessions of the legislature. If elected he would always be found ready and willing to serve.

Davis D. Moise was the next speaker. He has served one term in the legislature and seeks to succeed himself and is not seeking a new job. He supposed that the other candidates were seeking to fill the office vacated by Mr. Belser, who was not seeking re-election. He ran two years ago, when Shiloh and other sections of Sumter county had seen fit to elect him by a large majority. He thanked the people for the confidence placed in him then and hoped that that confidence had been deserved by his record in the legislature. He referred to the immense number of bills introduced every year and stated that he was opposed to the introduction of so many bills, as there were too many laws now and one of the chief duties of a good representative was to see that many of these needless laws did not pass. He took up the Laney-Odom act, stating that he had opposed it. There were two bills introduced, one the Laney-Odom act, and the other a bill which gave the insurance commissioner authority to hold hearings on rates when it was charged that they were unjust or excessive, and after the hearing the commissioner was to pass on the rate. He had favored this measure, but the other had been passed. The result was that insurance companies had withdrawn and insurance could not be secured in the rural sections. He was in favor of regulating the insurance companies or other large corporations, if they needed regulation, and would vote for a measure to such effect, if he was shown that it was a good business proposition. He stated that it was the poor man in the country who was made to suffer by the passage of the law, as he could not get insurance, and he had given as his chief reason for opposing the Laney-Odom measure that the rates would go up, which they have done. One reason he wanted to go back to the legislature was to see that a reasonable and just law is passed guarding the issue. He favored the State warehouse system, as the best thing which had been done for the farmers, as money through it could be secured on farm products at as cheap or cheaper rate of interest than ever before, under the present federal banking laws. He stated emphatically that it must be kept out of politics, however. He favored biennial sessions of the legislature. He said that the voters had a good set of men to choose from, and asked to be remembered on the 29th of August when the people of Shiloh marked their tickets for the ballot box.

Dr. W. L. McCutcheon said that he had been asked why he was running. He said he ran of his own wish and no one was putting him up to run. He desired the office because it was an honor to be a member of the legislature, especially from Sumter county; he wanted to do something for the county and State and he wanted to give the voters of the county a larger field from which to select their representatives. He believed in keeping down the number of bills and eliminating unnecessary ones. He thought that everybody believed in and wanted good schools and good roads. He wanted to see that the money of the State was expended in an economical way. He favored the State warehouse system, but wanted it kept out of politics. He did not believe in giving too much authority to any one man or set of men, as it set temptation in their way. He asked the support of the people of Shiloh on election day and would appreciate anything they might do for him.

J. K. McElveen, Shiloh's favorite son, was the next candidate seeking the office of representative who gave his views. He stated that the people had already heard several good speeches, so he would not attempt to make one, but would simply outline his position on the issues of the day. He believed in education as a community builder. He wanted to see the rural schools built up and he advocated in having in each township a graded and high school which would reach the twelfth grade, providing a place for every boy and girl in the country to secure at least a partial education. "To my mind this is one of the greatest issues before us today," he stated. He believed in education along agricultural lines, teaching the farmers to raise their own meat and bread at home, so that they should not want for food. He asked those whose taxes were too low to raise their hands, and no hands were raised. He then asked those whose taxes were too high, or were burdened by taxes to raise their hands. At first no hands were raised, when he insisted two persons raised their hands. He favored biennial sessions of the legislature, as a means to cutting down expenses. He favored four-year terms of office, as a saving for the candidates, as it cost considerable to run. He favored cutting down the salaries of State officials and the saving of the State's money in other ways, so as to reduce taxes. He criticized the tax

commission, as something useless, whose duties should devolve upon the State Board of Equalization, which was a body representing the people, while the tax commission did not, and he believed in letting the people have their own representatives. The abolishment of the tax commission would save the State money, he argued. He said that the legislature was the State's taxing machine and it was time to call a halt to its raising the taxes. In conclusion he asked for the suffrage of the people of Shiloh at which some one in the crowd called out: "You'll get it all right, John."

Mr. A. K. Sanders stated that he was not an orator and would not try to make a speech. He merely wanted to give an accounting of his work in the office to which he had been elected two years ago, and to ask the voters if it satisfied them. If it did, he asked that he be sent back for another two years, saying that he had served for five terms in the legislature and considered himself, because of his experience, better fitted than ever before for the office. He pointed out that in the past fifteen years Sumter had had three chairmen of the ways and means committee, Mr. Altamont Moses, Col. Wilson, and Dr. Dick, who had secured their high positions because they had been consistently returned to the legislature and were worthy of the trust and honor. He stated that in the past two years more constructive legislation was enacted than ever before and he had supported every constructive measure. He favored the State warehouse system. Everybody knew the good results it had accomplished. He thought that biennial sessions of the legislature would accomplish the work necessary. He had always been on the job and did not think that he had missed a single session of the house. He promised, if re-elected, to serve as faithfully in the future as he had tried to serve in the past.

Mr. C. E. Stubbs sought the office of representative with no ulterior motive than to advance the welfare of his fellow man and State. He believed in free and equal rights for all and special privileges for none. He felt honored by having so many fine gentlemen in the race and asked the suffrage of the voters, feeling sure that Sumter county would be well represented no matter which three were elected. In outlining his platform he stated that he favored having less politics in the State, as it caused a feeling of unrest. He wanted biennial sessions of the legislature, with four year terms for all State officers, with the governor and Lieutenant governor not eligible for re-election. He favored the extension and development of the State warehouse system. He favored a rural credit system by which the tenant farmer might become a land holder. He believed in a thorough educational system with facilities for the rural schools. He stood for reasonable aid for Confederate veterans. He wanted good roads and stood for any business-like and prudent measures which would give them. He wanted a practical Torrens land registration system. He thought that the State warehouse system should be in the hands of a board with a commissioner to administer the affairs at the direction of the board. He believed that the present insurance laws should be revised so as to provide for an equitable method of fixing rates and the hearing of and revision of rates on complaint. At the same time he was opposed to allowing insurance companies to operate as a monopoly in constraint of competition. In closing he asked for the suffrage of the good people of Shiloh and promised to do his best for the county and State, if elected.

The candidates for magistracy came in last. There were three seeking election in the first district. J. T. Dennis asked to be elected to the office of magistrate. He stated that he would always be found at home and could be reached there any time. He would give his time and attention to the office and promised to learn the duties of the office, which he would conduct as he thought it should be. He wanted to serve the people, but if they thought that another man was better fitted for the office, why vote for the better man. He wanted the voter of those who thought he was the best man for the office.

Mr. J. C. McElveen asked the votes of those who considered him qualified for the office. He promised to deal fairly by everybody, if elected.

Mr. F. L. Player, who is seeking re-election, gave a statement of what he had done in the five and half years he had served as magistrate. He had done his duty without regard to friends or foe. What he had done was for law and order, for which he stood at all times, and would always stand. He promised to continue to give justice to all, if re-elected to the office.

The meeting was then adjourned and the candidates and others mingled and discussed political issues and engaged in social intercourse for several hours before the candidates left for their homes. Dinner was served on the grounds and all who wanted could secure rice and barbecue.

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