

TILLMAN ATTACKS LEVER.

CLAIMS CONGRESSMAN WAS PLEDGED TO SUPPORT HIM.

Refers to 1916 Campaign—Says Lever Was Anxious to Keep Secret His Part at That Time.

Senator Tillman has given out a rather lengthy statement replying to Governor Manning. The new turn which it introduces is in the shape of statements, first, as to the extraordinary pains which Mr. Lever was at in 1916 to keep it a secret that he was aiding in the defeat of Blease and, second, that Mr. Lever had promised unequivocally to support him (Tillman) for reelection.

The rest of the statement is taken up mainly with arguments that the governor had no business interfering in the senatorial race at all, and that Mr. Lever's best service to the State would have been to hold on to the important chairmanship of the house agricultural committee.

The letter, which was dated June 6, had been released for publication in the morning papers of Monday, June 10. Saturday night Senator Tillman wired the papers to which it had been mailed asking that it be not printed. Monday the following telegram was received from him: "As the Charleston American, to whom it was not sent or released, has published today my communication of the 6th, it is hereby released and hope you will publish it."

The full text of the statement follows:

"I have no desire to question Governor Manning's personal patriotism but there are some features of his attitude in regard to the selection of a successor to the office I now hold that I feel compelled to deal with.

"To quote his own words: 'This is a time, however, if I may remark it, which demands self-abnegation and the subordination of selfish or ambitious aims.' This patent truth stated with such clearness causes me to wonder how Gov. Manning can justify the urging of Mr. Lever to give up the chairmanship of one of the great committees in the house to offer for the senate. Mr. Lever had in this crisis an opportunity such as comes to few men to serve the farmers of South Carolina. This he has thrown away to run for the senate and also attempt to jeopardize the chairmanship of the committee on naval affairs of the senate. If I am not re-elected the State loses the chairmanship of the committee on naval affairs. If Mr. Lever should win he will go to the foot of all the committees on which he will serve, and so would Blease.

"Did Governor Manning consider the State's best interests when he advised and persuaded Mr. Lever to throw away the chairmanship of the committee on agriculture of the house to go into the race for the senate?"

"The State had successfully passed through the floating of more than its share of the liberty loan. This is evidence enough that the State of South Carolina was loyal and true and earnestly behind the president and the war.

"This over-subscription to the liberty bond issue and the generous contributions to the Red Cross on the part of the people of South Carolina completely refutes Governor Manning's statement to the president and Mr. Lever's assertion in his announcement that the causes of the war and the objects for which our country are fighting will have to be explained in great detail on the stump this summer in every county or Blease will be elected, and the people of South Carolina will go on record as disloyal and opposed to the war. For myself I have no doubt about the patriotism and the loyalty of the people of South Carolina, and they are just as well informed as some people who set themselves up to be their leaders. I have no hesitation in resenting such misrepresentations of their loyalty and patriotism.

"I fully share the opinion of President Wilson, who, in his last address to congress, said: 'Politics is adjourned. The elections will go to those who think least of it; to those who go to their constituencies without explanations or excuses, with a plain record of duty faithfully and disinterestedly performed. I for one am always confident that the people of this country will give a just verdict upon the service of the men who act for them when the facts are such that no man can disguise or conceal them. There is no danger of deceit now.'

"How does this statement of President Wilson's compare with Governor Manning's open letter to me?"

"Governor Manning says: 'My opinion was, and is, that it is imperative for him (Blease) to be met in debate at every meeting so as to keep the true and vital issues of the war and loyal to our country and government before the people; also, that we in South Carolina could not take a chance on the issue; that it was a State

and national duty to see to it that South Carolina was represented in the United States senate by one who was, and is, loyal to the United States and a strong supporter of President Wilson and his administration. Blease does not fill these requirements.' Here is the crux of the situation. Governor Manning was not willing to trust the people with making their own nomination for senator, and he, with the aid of a very small coterie of politicians, set to work to make a senator satisfactory to Governor Manning. Naturally Governor Manning is concerned in the defeat of Blease. This is no new sensation to him. He has called on me in times past to bring about this much desired event, and I contributed something to that end, notably when he himself was in the race two years ago for governor, but now he thinks it advisable to get someone else to 'bell the cat.' What a transformed and ubiquitous statesman he is when it comes to making it possible to elect a senator from that of two years ago, when the issue was on the election of a governor?"

"I want to say in this connection that when the second race was on between Manning and Blease I issued over my own signature a letter, in which I tied Blease and McLaurin together. I outlined the iniquities connected with the proposed deal, etc. and had this statement ready for the printer when Mr. Lever came to Trenton in the hot weather in early September in an automobile, with the curtains down, and returning to Columbia after dark to get this anti-Blease document to the printers, keeping it a secret as to the part he was taking in the election.

"Governor Manning's opinion, as well as Mr. Lever's, as to my ability to defeat Blease by newspaper communications and my own plan of campaign have evidently undergone a considerable change in their minds.

"The blunt truth about the matter is this: Governor Manning has recently been in the business of making a senator for the people of South Carolina to swallow. To carry his plans through he even went to Washington and tried to get the president and Gen. Burleson to help him; making the specious statement that Tillman could not defeat Blease. He was asked who, in his judgment, could defeat Blease in South Carolina, and Gov. Manning named Mr. Lever as his candidate. Gov. Manning has been instrumental in taking from a place of usefulness a young man, whose career was full of promise and possibilities, and offered him as a sacrifice to nothing less than vanity and bull-headedness. If there are any two persons in South Carolina who have more cause to be grateful to me for services than Gov. Manning and Mr. Lever I do not remember who they are. Neither will deny what I have done for them nor attempt to belittle its value. If they want me to specify I will do so.

"There is one striking feature about Gov. Manning's open letter to me. In his egotism and vanity he makes no effort to conceal the fact that he has tried to use President Wilson and Gen. Burleson and create the impression that Blease is a menace. Just how far the good people of the State will resent this I am unable to say, but there is a big difference in reelecting Tillman to the senate and reelecting Manning governor. This statement will find its vindication later on.

"Mr. Lever has stated to me and also to others that he would under no circumstances run against me but would aid me in every way he could in my reelection. After my announcement I know that Gen. Burleson advised Mr. Lever to declare for my reelection. But in spite of his protestations of personal and political friendship, Mr. Lever has endeavored to create the impression in the State that he is the candidate of the administration when he in fact is Gov. Manning's candidate brought about by a deal that Gov. Manning thought he had made but the terms of which could not be complied with.

"I am amused at one sentence in Gov. Manning's letter. It is this: 'My views would have been offered to you with equal frankness had you sought them, but I did not feel justified in volunteering advice to you. Yet the governor did feel justified in advising Mr. Lever to run against me. I will remind the governor that it had been his habit when visiting Washington or merely passing through to always call at the senate committee on naval affairs to pay his respects and exchange views with me, but when he came on the errand of hunting a champion of the government to defend and explain our entering into the war and the necessity for its vigorous prosecution, he never deigned to call at my office at all. In this he erred. When he came to Washington senator-making, I would have listened to all he had to say with respectful attention and he might have saved his face in this controversy of his own making as his message to me through Gen. Burleson referred to in his letter was never delivered. How exalted he con-

sidered his views to be! Instead he went about secretly to persuade President Wilson and the cabinet members that Blease would beat me unless some one would defend the president and meet Blease on the stump. I desire to say here that neither the president nor any member of his cabinet have suggested to me that I should retire from the senatorial race. Thus the people of South Carolina can see for themselves how Gov. Manning has with a few men in Columbia and scattered here and there over the State endeavored to name the officeholders and frame up a slate for the senatorship.

"I am offering for the senate through a sense of duty to retain for South Carolina the influence and prestige she enjoys today. I have a contempt for that kind of judgment and politics which has taken Mr. Lever from the post where duty should have held him. Blease is not a menace to me and there is not the slightest danger of his election. The recent Democratic State convention consisting of delegates from forty-four counties contained Blease delegations from only three counties. Seventy-five per cent. of the delegates to that convention were and are for my reelection to the senate and the cordial greeting and the interest manifested when I appeared before that convention is a sufficient and complete answer to those who have studiously circulated the report that I was physically and mentally unfit to discharge the duties of senator.

"There are many other South Carolinians just as capable as Mr. Lever to fill the position of senator, as acceptably as Mr. Lever could fill it, and who have been urged to run, but they have declined, taking the position that they did not want to jeopardize the chairmanship of the committee on naval affairs so valuable to the State, and they did not think I should retire at this time in the nation's crisis.

"Whether it was selfish ambition or patriotism that dictated Gov. Manning's action in urging Mr. Lever to run for the senatorship, when Mr. Lever had promised to support me, and endeavoring to secure the support of President Wilson and his administration in behalf of Mr. Lever by questioning the loyalty and patriotism of the people of the State, I will leave to the voters of the State to decide."

POTATOES ARE PLENTIFUL.

Big Crop Causes Reduction in Price—Selling for Half Last Year's Price.

Columbia, June 10.—With potatoes—new potatoes—selling 50 per cent. cheaper today than a year ago, the food problem of the housewife is minimized.

It is a fact that potatoes are twice as cheap today as compared with a year ago. New potatoes are retailing at the present time at from sixty to sixty-five cents a peck.

Potatoes should become the main dish on the dining tables of the people of South Carolina, says the food administration. Potatoes supply a very satisfying and competent substitute for wheat bread. There is the vital necessity of saving every grain of wheat and every pound flour that can possibly be saved. Potatoes are here in abundance and the cheapest food that can be bought.

At the present prices no one is making large profits on potatoes. The growers are getting from \$3.50 to \$4.00 a barrel for their potatoes. The wholesalers are selling potatoes at from \$4.50 to \$5.00 for a barrel of eleven pecks. The retailer, selling potatoes at from sixty to sixty-five cents a peck, are making only a reasonable profit. The consumer is reaping the benefit.

Low potato prices are due to two causes. There is this year a big potato crop. Bad transportation facilities to the Eastern markets held down the prices at home because of the plentiful supply.

Local conditions warrant and call for the greatest possible use of potatoes, and because of the price and plentiful supply the opportunity is offered housewives to substitute potatoes for bread to even a greater extent than before, says the food administration.

GOVERNOR TO WASHINGTON.

Mr. Manning to Appear Before Congressional Committees.

Columbia, June 10.—Gov. Manning was called to Washington this afternoon to appear before the house and senate committee which are considering the Americanization bills. It is shown statistically that there are 5,000,000 persons in the United States unable to speak the English language, 1,500,000 of these being native born.

Washington, June 10.—Rear Admiral Samuel McGowan was today nominated by President Wilson, on the recommendation of Secretary Daniels, for another term of four years as chief of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts of the navy.

Lincoln School Notes.

The Lincoln school closed a very successful year. The closing exercises were held in the school auditorium on Thursday and Friday nights, June 6th and 7th.

There were seven members of the junior class to enter the prize declamation contest—five girls and two boys. The first prize was awarded Annette Singleton, the second going to Gilbert DeLorme and the third, honorable mention, William James.

The following composed the committee of judges: Mrs. M. J. Frederick, Rev. I. W. Williams, D. D., and Mr. S. J. McDonald, Chairman.

All of the speakers did exceedingly well and the judges found it somewhat difficult to decide upon the winners.

On Friday night the auditorium was filled comfortably before 8.30. Promptly at 8.30 the electric bell sounded the signal for the beginning of the exercises and the class marched in, keeping time to the tune of E. T. Paul's "Battle of Gettysburg" march.

When Corporal Beaugard Brock, who was number three in the class, came in, the entire audience engaged in general applause. Corporal Brock was called to the colors in April and is making good. His commanding officer allowed him a leave of absence to attend the commencement and receive his diploma.

The entire program rang with true patriotism and as usual after he had presented the diplomas to the class, Supt. Edmunds proceeded in his logical way to impress upon the class and the audience the sacred formula for service. While he was speaking, the audience gave rapt attention and every sentence seemed to be filled with inspiration.

Director H. A. Moses was on hand and in a brief way clearly outlined the purpose for which the Thrift Stamps are intended and many now have a clearer conception along this line. Senator Epps spoke very forcefully to the large audience that had gathered on last Sunday, June 2nd.

The faculty and pupils of the school have taken great pleasure in doing with their might, what their hands found to do and wish to have it known that they are fully in accord with every move that makes for the betterment of mankind everywhere.

Bessie A. Buckner of the class of 1918 received the Knight Bros. Bible and General Scholarship prize. Several other prizes were distributed among the pupils of the lower grades for general scholarship and spelling.

Class Roll.

Alethia Anderson, Bauregard Brock, Bessie Alma Buckner, Rachel J. Davis, Mamie Ethelyn Dines, Orilla Durant, Lloyd Gary, Mahurley Miller, Bertha T. Moore, Caroline Lee Richardson, Martha Rivers, Helen E. Roberts, Minnie B. Spears, Samuel L. Sumpter.

Oratorical Prize Contest, Thursday, June 6.

Invocation.

"America."

"Jane Conquest"—Jessie Wilson.

"Within the Gates"—Annette Singleton.

Song—"Don't Bite the Hand That's Feeding You."

"Legend of the Organ Builder"—Gertrude McBeth.

Piano Solo—John Moultrie.

"Bernardo del Carlo"—Ethel Murray.

Supposed Speech of Regulus—Gilbert DeLorme.

Song—"Joan of Arc"—Five Girls.

"Angels of Beuna Vista"—Viola Dinkins.

"Marcos Bozzaris"—William James.

"Good Bye Mollie Darling"—Song by Sixth Grade.

Commencement Program, Friday Night, June 7th.

The Star Spangled Banner—Opening Chorus.

Invocation—Rev. R. E. Anderson.

Scripture Lesson—XC Psalm—Lloyd Gary.

The Marseillaise Hymn—Chorus Class.

Salutatory—"We are Loyal Americans"—Minnie Spears.

"The Colored Soldier"—Dunbar—Helen Roberts.

Song—"Your Country Needs You Now."

Class History—Bertie Moore.

Essay—"The Real Farmer"—A True Patriot—Samuel Sumpter.

Song—"Over There."

Prophecy—Alethia Anderson.

Song—"Joan of Arc"—Girls of '19.

Class Critic—Rachel Davis.

Piano Solo—Selected—Ezekiel Jones '19.

Valedictory—"Get Into the Fray"—Bessie Alma Buckner.

A CALL TO DUTY.

MAYOR L. D. JENNINGS APPEALS TO LOYAL AMERICANS.

"No True, Patriotic Citizen Can Have Any Patience with the Man Who is Able and Fails to Do His Full Part."

To the True and Loyal Americans of Sumter County:

The campaign to sell and to pledge \$850,000 of War Savings Stamps between June 14th and 28th, will open on June 14th, with a mass meeting at Sumter Opera House, Sunday, June 16th at 4 P. M., to be addressed by men of national reputation. We want everyone there.

I have heard some say that they did not believe that Sumter county could raise its quota of \$850,000. Before the campaign opened for the last Liberty loan, I heard similar remarks. Our quota was \$418,000; and we raised something over \$600,000. Before the campaign opened for the last Red Cross drive, I heard similar remarks. Our quota was \$17,000; we raised something over \$67,000. There is no reason on earth why we should not raise the quota for War Savings stamps, but we cannot raise this if the men hold back and expect the women and little children to raise it. It is true that most of them can purchase some stamps, but not many of them can purchase large amounts. If every man, woman and child in Sumter county will purchase to the extent of their ability, and if every man and woman who is financially able to do so will purchase the maximum amount, which one man is allowed by the government to buy, to wit, \$1,000, then we will have no trouble in selling \$850,000 worth of stamps. In purchasing these stamps, we do not give away anything. It is true that we might be able to obtain a little higher rate of interest on the money invested, but when we take into consideration that we do not have to pay taxes on these War Savings Stamps, and we do have to pay taxes on other investments, then there is very little difference in the rate of interest, as the stamps bear four per cent, compounded quarterly, which amounts to nearly five per cent. Sometimes on other investments, we sustain a loss, but there is no possible chance of sustaining a loss on money invested in this government security, unless we lose the war, and Germany overruns this country as she has overrun Belgium, and should this occur, no true American citizen would care to have his money repaid, because he would rather be dead, than to exist under German rule.

To say that Sumter county cannot raise its quota for War Savings Stamps is an admission that Sumter county is not able to put up its proportion of money that the government says it should furnish to finance the war. Are you willing to make such an admission as long as you have one dollar left, or the means with which to raise it? The answer of every true American will be NO.

I have helped in all of these drives, for the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A. War Fund, and the Liberty Loans, and I have not as yet come in contact with anyone who has made any real sacrifice in order to do his or her part. What I mean by real sacrifice is to do without things actually needed. The main trouble in raising money for war causes is to convince people what they can do. After they are once convinced, they find very little trouble in providing means. The government would not ask for money if it was not needed, and we should put up the proportion asked of us and continue to do so from time to time as the calls come, until we have won the war, or until we shall have furnished the last dollar we have, and even if it becomes necessary to do this, and if every one in Sumter county has furnished his last dollar, yet the sacrifice of all combined could not compare in the slightest degree with the sacrifice of the life of one boy from Sumter county made in our defense, and in the defense of civilization and humanity.

No true, patriotic citizen can have any patience with the man who is able and fails to do his full part. I do not think we have a great many of this kind in Sumter county. The people heretofore, with few exceptions, have responded very liberally to all of these causes, but there are some who seem to love their money more than their country, and more than the boys who have gone and who are going to fight for them.

The government does not ask anyone, in fact, does not allow anyone, to buy in his name, or her name, more than \$1,000 of War Savings Stamps, that is, maturity value. This does not prevent anyone who will from purchasing additional stamps

Awarding Prizes—Final Announcements.

"Keep the Home Fires Burning."

Benediction—Rev. J. McKenzie Harrison, D. D.

for his wife or children, and there are many who can easily afford, and ought, to do this. To purchase \$1,000 in War Savings Stamps during the month of June, a party is only required to pay \$834.

It is the purpose of the campaign committee to obtain pledges between the 14th and 28th of June for the purchase of \$850,000 of War Savings Stamps. Of this amount, the government requires that at least \$170,000 in cash be purchased between the 14th and 28th of June. There are a great many people who will not be able to purchase any for cash during this period, while there are a great many others who can purchase their whole quota, and pay cash. Those who can should do this in order to raise the \$170,000 in cash. If the stamps are purchased in June, they are purchased cheaper than they can be in July, August, September, October, November or December. Therefore, a party who has the money to invest in stamps, should purchase them now. Sumter county has more than raised its quota for the Liberty loans; it has more than raised its quota for the Red Cross, and I am satisfied that it will raise its quota for the War Savings Stamps. Some may say that they have purchased bonds, and therefore cannot purchase stamps. When the soldiers once go over the top, and return, and are ordered to go over again, they never say, "I have been once, and cannot go." Many of them will go over, and never return. No one will say he cannot purchase again, except those who have not yet convinced themselves that it is their absolute duty to do their part every time the call is made, as long as they have anything left.

We are expected to finance the war, as long as there is a soldier in the field. We are expected to send soldiers to the field as long as there is an American man left, until the war is won. I have bought all the Liberty bonds which I thought I could possibly buy, but I have convinced myself that I can buy the \$1,000 worth of Savings Stamps, and I know that there are a great many in Sumter county who can do likewise, if they will use the same arguments to their minds as I used to mine, to wit: That it is my absolute duty to respond to every call made by the government in proportion to my means, as long as the war lasts, or until I have completely exhausted my means.

The government expects me to do this, and I propose to do so, and the government expects everybody else to do likewise, and the patriotic American people, not only expect everyone to do the same, but they will demand that it be done.

I have been requested by Mr. Herbert A. Moses, who is chairman of the War Savings Campaign for this county, to assist him during the campaign. I have consented to do so, as I feel it my duty to assist all war demands that are made upon me, and I have undertaken to either see or get in communication with all of those whom I believe are able to purchase one thousand dollars of war savings stamps, whether they can pay for all of them in June, or later in the fall. To see all of these personally takes a great deal of time. If necessary, but it ought not to be, I am perfectly willing to give all of my time to help out in these matters, and it is just as much the patriotic duty of every one who can help in this cause, to make it known to a member of the committee, as it is to subscribe for the stamps, and in this way, help the committee, and I most respectfully request anyone who reads this, and is able to pledge to purchase one thousand dollars in war savings stamps, to notify me, either by letter or phone, and I will see that a pledge card is furnished him or her to be signed. By doing this, you will greatly aid us in this work.

If the white people of Sumter county will purchase stamps in proportion to their means as the colored people are doing, we will sell more than our quota. I went to two meetings on Sunday, both attended by colored people, and at each meeting, more than \$3,000 was subscribed. The colored people contributed to the Red Cross as liberally, if not more so, than the white people did, in proportion to their means. I shall hope for many prompt responses to this letter. Do not wait until the 14th to notify me, because it is our purpose to get all of the pledges possible in anticipation of the mass meeting on Sunday, the 16th. Everybody who is able, and loves his country, and the boys who have gone, and are going, and are still yet to go, will not hesitate to respond. Will you stand by your country to the last? Will you stand by the American boys and our noble allies until our flag and their flags shall have been planted above the grave where German brutality and everything tainted with Prussianism, have been forever buried, where they shall forever wave in the name of civilization, peace and humanity?

Respectfully,
L. D. JENNINGS.