The Fairfield News and Herald.

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THE BLAND BILL VETOED

TEXT OF PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S MESSAGE ON THE SUBJECT.

He Reviews the Financial Condition of the Country at Length—Thinks the Measure Ill-advised and Dangerous—The Bill Faulty in Construction.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The following is the text of the President's message vetoing the seigniorage bill:

To the House of Representatives: I return without my approval House bill numbered 4956, entitled "An Act directing the coinage of the silver bullion held in the Treasury and for other purposes."

My strong desire to avoid disagreement with those in both houses of Congress who have supported this bill, would lead me to approve it if I could believe that the public good would not be thereby endangered and that such action on my part would be a proper discharge of official duty. Inasmuch, however, as I am unable to satisfy myself that the proposed legislation is either wise or opportune, my conception of the obligations and responsibilities attached to the great office I hold forbids the indulgence of my personal desire, and inexorably confines me to that course which is dictated by my reason and judgment and pointed out by a sincere purpose to protect and promote the general interest of our people.

The financial disturbance which swept over the country during the last year was unparalleled in its severity and disastrous in its consequences. There seemed to be almost an entire displacement of faith in our financial ability and a loss of confidence in our fiscal policy. Among those who attempted to assign causes for our distress it was very generally conceded that the operation of a provision of law then in force which required the government to purchase monthly a large amount of silver bullion, and issue its notes in payment therefor, was either entirely, or to a large extent, responsible for our trouble. This led to the repeal on the 1st day of November, 1893, of this statutory provision. We had, however, not fallen so low in the depths of depression and timidity, and apprehension had so completely gained control in financial circles, that our rapid recuperation could not be reasonably expected. Our recovery has, nevertheless, steadily progressed, and though less than five months have elapsed since the repeal of the mischievous silver purchase requirement, a wholesome improvement is unmistakably apparent. Confidence in our absolute solvency is to such an extent reinstated and faith in our disposition to adhere to sound financial methods is so far restored as to produce the most encouraging results, both home and abroad. The wheels of domestic industry have been slowly set in motion, and the tide of foreign investment has again started in our direction. Our recovery being so well under way nothing should be done to check our convalescence, nor should we forget that a relapse at this time would almost surely reduce us to a lower stage of financial distress than that from which we are just emerging.

I believe that if the bill under consideration should become a law, it would be regarded as a retrogression from the financial intentions indicated by our recent repeal of the provisions forcing silver bullion purchases that it would weaken if it did not destroy returning faith and confidence in our sund financial tendencies and that as a consequence our progress would be unfortunately checked and a return to our recent distressing plight seriously threatened.

This proposed legislation is so related to the currency conditions growing out of the law compelling the purchase of silver by the government, that a glance at such conditions and a partial review of the law referred to may not be unprofitable.

Between the 14th day of August, 1890, when the law became operative, and the 1st day of November, 1893, when the clause in it directing the purchase of silver was repealed, there were purchased by the Secretary of the Treasury more than 168,000,000 ounces of silver bullion. In payment for this bullion the government issued its Treasury notes of various denominations, amounting to nearly $156,000,000, which notes were immediately added to the currency in circulation among our people. Such notes were, by the law, made legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, except when otherwise expressly stipulated and were made receivable for customs, taxes and all public dues, and when so received might be reissued. They were allowed to be held by banking associations as a part of their lawful reserves. On the demand of the holders, these treasury notes were to be redeemed in gold or silver coin in the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury, but it was declared as a part of this redemption provision "that it was the established policy of the United States to maintain the two metals on a parity with each other upon the present legal ratio or such ratio as may be provided by law. The money coined from such bullion was to be standard silver dollars and after directing the immediate coinage of a little less than 28,000,000 ounces, the law provided that as much of the remaining bullion should be thereafter coined as might be necessary to have for the redemption of the Treasury notes on its purchase, and that "any gain or seigniorage arising from coinage shall be accounted for and paid into the Treasury." This gain or seigniorage evidently indicates so much of the bullion owned by the government as should remain after the using of a sufficient amount to coin as many standard silver dollars as should equal in number the dollars represented by the Treasury notes issued in payment of the entire quantity of bullion. These Treasury notes now outstanding and in circulation amount to $152,951,280, and although there has been thus far but a comparatively small amount of this bullion coined yet the so-called gain or seigniorage, as above defined, which would arise from the coinage of the entire mass, has been easily ascertained to be a quantity of bullion sufficient to make when coined 55,156,681 standard silver dollars.

Considering the present intrinsic relation between gold and silver the maintenance of the parity between the two metals, as mentioned in this law, can mean nothing else than the maintenance of such [illegible] confidence of the people who use our money in their daily transactions. Manifestly the maintenance of this parity can only be accomplished so far as it is affected by these Treasury notes, and in the estimation of the holders of the same by giving to such holders, on their redemption, the coin, whether it is gold or silver, which they prefer. It follows that while in terms the law leaves the choice of coin to be paid on such redemption to the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury the exercise of this discretion, if opposed to the demands of the holders, is entirely inconsistent with the effective and beneficial maintenance of the parity between the two metals. If both gold and silver are to serve us as money and if they together are to supply to our people a safe and stable currency, the necessity of preserving this parity is obvious. Such necessity has been repeatedly conceded in the platforms of both political parties and in our Federal statutes. It is now here no more emphatically recognized than in the recent law which repealed the provision under which the bullion now on hand was purchased. This law insists upon the "maintenance of the parity in value of the coins of the two metals and the equal power of every dollar at all times in the markets and in the payment of debts."

The Secretary of the Treasury has therefore for the best reasons, not only promptly complied with every demand for the redemption of the Treasury notes in gold, but the present situation as well as the latter and spirit of the law, appear plainly to justify, if they do not enjoin upon him, a continuation of such redemption. The conditions I have endeavored to present may be thus summarized:

First. The government has purchased and now has on hand sufficient silver bullion to permit the coinage of all the silver dollars necessary to redeem, in such dollars, the Treasury notes issued for the purchase of said silver bullion and enough besides to coin, as gain or seigniorage, 55,156,681 additional standard silver dollars.

Second. There are outstanding and now in circulation Treasury notes issued on the payment of the bullion purchased amounting to $152,951,280. These notes are legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, except when otherwise expressly stipulated, they are receivable for customs, taxes and all public dues, when held by banking associations, they may be counted as part of their lawful reserves and they are redeemed by the government in gold at the option of the holders. These advantageous attributes were deliberately attached to these notes at the time of their issue, they are fully understood by our people to whom such notes have been distributed as currency and have inspired confidence in their safety and value and have undoubtedly thus induced their continued and contented use as money instead of anxiety for their redemption.

Having referred to some incidents which I deem relevant to the subject, it remains for me to submit a scientific statement of my objections to the bill under consideration.

This bill consists of two sections, excluding one which merely appropriates a sum sufficient to carry the Act into effect. The first section provides for the immediate coinage of the silver bullion in the Treasury, which represents the so-called gain or seigniorage or which would arise from the coinage of all the bullion on hand, which gain or seigniorage this section declares to be $55,156,681. It directs that the money so coined or the certificates issued thereon shall be used in the payment of public expenditures and provides that if the needs of the Treasury demand it the Secretary of the Treasury may in his discretion issue silver certificates in excess of such coinage not exceeding the amount of seigniorage in said section authorized to be coined.

The second section directs that as soon as possible after the coinage of this seigniorage the remainder of the bullion held by the government shall be coined into legal tender standard silver dollars and that they shall be held in the Treasury for the redemption of the Treasury notes issued in the purchase of said bullion. It provides that as fast as the bullion shall be coined the redemption of said notes shall not be reissued, but shall be cancelled and destroyed in amounts equal to the coin held at any time in the Treasury derived from the coinage provided for, and that silver certificates shall be issued on such coin in the manner now provided by law. It is, however, especially declared in said said section that the "Act shall not be construed to change existing laws relating to the legal tender character or mode of redemption of the Treasury notes issued for the purchase of the silver bullion to be coined.

The entire bill is most unfortunately constructed. Nearly every sentence presents uncertainty and invites controversy as to its meaning and intent. The first section is especially faulty in this respect, and it is extremely doubtful whether its language will permit the consummation of its supposed purposes. I am led to believe that the promoters of the bill intended in this section to provide for the coinage of standard silver dollars, and yet there is positively nothing in the section to prevent its coinage in any description of silver coins now authorized under any existing law. I suppose this section was also intended, in case the needs of the Treasury called for money faster than the seigniorage bullion could actually be coined to permit the issue of silver certificates in advance of such coinage, but its language would seem to permit the issuance of such certificates to double the amount of seigniorage as stated, one-half of which would not represent an ounce of silver in the Treasury. The debate upon this section in the Congress developed an earnest and positive difference of opinion as to its object and meaning. In any event, I am clear that the present perplexities and embarrassments of the Secretary of the Treasury ought not to be augmented by devolving upon him the execution of a law so uncertain and confused.

I am not willing, however, to rest my objection to this section solely on these grounds; in my judgment sound finance does not commend a further infusion of silver into our currency at this time unaccompanied by further adequate provision for the maintainance in our Treasury of a safe gold reserve. Doubts also arise as to the meaning and construction of the second section of the bill. If the silver dollars therein directed to be coined are, as the section provides, to be held in the Treasury for redemption of Treasury notes it is suggested that, strictly speaking, certificates cannot be issued on such coin "in the manner now provided by law," because these dollars are money held in the Treasury for the express purpose of redeeming Treasury notes on demand, which would ordinarily mean that they were set apart for the purpose of substituting them for these Treasury notes. They are not, therefore, held in such a way as to furnish a basis for certificates according to any provision of existing law. If, however, silver certificates can be issued upon these dollars, there is nothing in the section to indicate the change of criteria and functions of these certificates. If they were to be from the same character as silver certificates in circulation under existing laws they would at best be receivable only for customs, taxes and all public dues; and under the language of this section it is, to say the least, extremely doubtful whether the certificates it contemplates would be lawfully received even for such purposes.

Whatever else may be said of the uncertainties of expression in this bill, they certainly ought not to be found in legislation affecting subjects so important and far reaching as our finances and currency. In stating other and more important reasons for my disapproval of this section, I shall however, assume that under its provisions these Treasury notes issued in payment for silver bullion will continue to be redeemed as heretofore in silver or gold at the option of the holders; and that if when they are presented for redemption or reach the Treasury in any other manner, there are in the Treasury coined silver dollars equal in nominal value to such Treasury notes, then and in that case, the notes will be destroyed and silver certificates to an equal amount be substituted.

I am convinced that this scheme is ill-advised and dangerous. As an ultimate result of its operation Treasury notes which are legal tender for all debts public and private, and which are redeemable in gold or silver, at the option of the holder, was replaced by silver certificates, which, whatever may be their character and description will have none of these qualities. In anticipation of these results, and as an immediate effect, the Treasury notes will naturally appreciate in value and desirability. The fact that gold can be realized upon them and the further fact that their destruction has been decreed when they reach the Treasury must tend to their withdrawal from general circulation to be immediately presented for gold redemption or to be hoarded for presentation at a more convenient season. The sequel of both operations will be a large addition to the silver currency in our circulation and a corresponding reduction of gold in the Treasury. The argument has been made that things will not occur at once because a long time must elapse before the coinage of anything but the seigniorage can be entered upon. If the physical effects of the execution of the second section of this bill are not to be realized until far in the future, this may furnish a strong reason why it should not be passed so much in advance; but the postponement of its actual operation cannot prevent the fear and loss of confidence and nervous precaution which would immediately follow its passage and bring about its worst consequences. I regard this section of the bill as embodying a plan by which the government will be obliged to pay out its scanty store of gold for no other purpose than to force an unnatural addition of silver money into the hands of our people. This is an exact reversal of the policy which safe finance dictates if we are to preserve parity between gold and silver and maintain sensible bimetallism.

We have now outstanding more than $338,000,000 in silver certificates issued under existing laws. They are serving the purpose of money usefully and without question. Our gold reserve, amounting to only a little more than $100,000,000, is directly charged with the redemption of $346,000,000 of United States notes. When it is proposed to inflate our silver currency it is a time for strengthening our gold reserve instead of depleting it. I cannot conceive of a longer step to silver monometallism than when we spend our gold to buy silver certificates for circulation, and especially in view of the fact of the difficulties surrounding the replenishment of our gold. This leads me to earnestly present the desirability of ranting to the Secretary of the Treasury a better power than now exists to issue bonds to protect our gold reserve when for any reason it should be necessary. Our currency is in such a confused condition, and our financial affairs are apt to assume at any time so critical a position that it seems to me such a course is dictated by ordinary prudence

I am not insensible to the arguments in favor of coining the bullion seigniorage now in the treasury, and I believe it could be done safely and with advantage if the Secretary of the Treasury han the power to issue bonds at a low rate of interest under authority in substitution of that now existing and better suited to the protection of the treasury.

I hope a way will present itself in the near future for the adjustment of our monetary affairs in such a comprehensive and conservative manner as will accord to silver its proper place in our currency; but in the meantime, I am extremely solicitous that whatever action we take on this subject may be such as to prevent loss and discouragement to our people at home, and the destruction of confidence in our financial management abroad.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

Executive Mansion, March 29, 1894.

Forced to Resign.

WASHINGTON, Mach 28.—This official announcement was made at the Treasury this afternoon:

"Mr. J. B. Brawley, Sixth auditor of the Treasury Department, today tendered his resignation to the President, to take effect upon the appointment and qulification of his successor. Mr. Brawley is a citizen of Meadville, Pa., is a lawyer by profession, and was appointed auditor April 19, 1893. The position pays $3,600 per annum. No action has yet been taken on his resignation, and it is not known when it will be accepted. This is the first prominent official appointed by the present administration who has resigned. His resignation is understood to have been forced. For some time past the relations of the sixth auditor and Secretary Carlisle have not been pleasant, and six weeks ago, there was quite a scene in Secretary Carlisle's room between the sixth auditor and the Secretary. Secretary Carlisle has not been impressed with Mr. Brawley's executive capacity. The work of the sixth auditor's office is far behind; methods employed were not business-like, and Postmaster General Bissell, Secretary Carlisle and the President, six weeks ago, came to the conclusion that a change was necessary in the office. Mr. Brawley called at the Treasury Department yesterday and formally tendered his resignation. The sixth auditor's office audits all the accounts of the Post-Office Department. It is the largest auditor's office in the Treasury, and is as large as the entire Agricultural Department.

Rape and Murder.

JACKSONVILLE, March 27.—A special to the Times Union from Jasper, Fla., says: There is great excitement at Ellaville, a few miles south of this place, over the murder of Mrs. Turner, an aged woman, and Miss Busey, a fifteen-year-old girl. The woman and the girl were alone in the house last night. Louis Hartridge, the girl was found in the road in front of the house with her brains beat out. Old Mrs. Turner was found dead in the house, her head having also been beaten to a jelly. An axe or a hatchet had been used by the murderer. An examination of the body of the girl shows that she had been ravished. It is supposed that after the fiend had satisfied his lust, he slew the girl and the old woman, to prevent his crime being discovered. There is no clue to the murderer, but it is supposed to have been the work of a negro tramp who was seen near the house at nightfall. The people are terribly wrought up, and if the murderer can be discovered Judge Lynch will dispose of him.

TAKE YOUR CHOICE!

WE ARE BOUND TO HAVE FREE SILVER OR FREE BANKS.

An Argument in Favor of State Banks of Issue—If the People are not Given Free Banks they will in the End have Free Silver.

To the Editor of The News and Courier: For several years I have given careful thought to the financial problem, and have read the best arguments on all sides of the subject. I have given no less attention to existing political conditions, since in matters of administration it is necessary to study not only abstract questions, but modifications rendered necessary by the fact that government is a compromise, and that the wise statesman must content himself with doing not what is best, but what is best under the circumstances. "Abstract ideas, when true render Governments impracticable, and when false tend to destroy them."

The abstract question of money is in itself a difficult one. Money has several functions to perform, and for each there are requisites sometimes opposed to one another. To be a perfect medium of exchange money must be in great demand, to be in great demand it must be comparatively scarce. But when too scarce it does not afford a sufficient supply for loans. In attempting to secure a volume sufficient to meet this demand for loans, the requisites of a perfect medium may be sacrificed. Money must also be elastic in volume, varying directly with the wants of trade in order to become a perfect standard of value for different times. A government currency, while it may be a perfectly safe medium of exchange, cannot possess sufficieht elasticity of volume. Rigidity gives rise to alternate plethora and scarcity in business centres and disturbs the market for prices and loans. As most of the traffic of the world is based on credit, any considerable fluctuation of prices of commodities works serious injury. Even in a steady general rise of prices creditors are swindled, while through a steady decline debtors may be ruined.

All economists concur in the truth that the standard of values should be set by commodities, and that money is merely a measure of that standard. When it fails to perform this duty it becomes a national nuisance. The existing long continued decline of average prices, measured in gold, uncontestable proof that gold is not following the law of average value, and that unless supplemented in volume it cannot be taken as the standard. A silver standard is still more unreliable. At present neither the gold dollar nor the silver dollar is a representative of average values. If all prices have fallen 25 per cent in the past few years it can be seen that the volume of money should be increased, both for reasons of honesty as of politics. This truth may as well be accepted.

Those who compare merely the volume of money for different times neglect a great factor in the problem. The trade of the country is based on one part money and nine parts confidence. Each may fluctuate independently. When there is a loss in the stock of confidence an additional demand is created for money. A dimunition of 10 per cent in confidence calls for a tremendous proportional increase in currency. But this increase may be needed only until confidence is restored, when it ought to be withdrawn. Government cannot secure elasticity without resort to the Ocala sub-treasury plan, which has so many other bad features as to render of no account this good one.

The problem is how best to increase the currency and make it elastic, and yet preserve its true money character. It must be based on gold, the money of the world. It cannot be exclusively gold, for gold is scarce. It cannot be based on silver at the present ratio, for silver is discredited in the markets of the world, and the United States are not strong enough to force the world to receive silver on the terms offered by the advocates of free silver. The demand that the United States should issue paper money would have been laughed at by all statesmen of all parties from the beginning of the Government till the remarkable decision of the Supreme Court a few years ago, which in the language of Hugh McCullough changed this representative Government into an imperial sovreignty. No more than the States should Congress make "anything but gold and silver a legal tender in payment of debts."

There are six hundred million dollars in silver in the United States today, and this is enough in all conscience. Any further issue of silver will tend still further to deplete the treasury of the gold that is now the only means of preserving the parity of all the silver and all the paper currency of the Union.

The seigniorage bill is but a further issue of silver. Instead of preventing a run on the gold in the treasury it will tend to aggravate it, and will have the tendency to force either a new call for a gold loan or the appropriation of gold to a premium, and its withdrawal from circulation.

If President Cleveland simply signs this bill he will be yielding to the call for more silver. If he vetoes it without indicating some other relief he will still more surely strengthen the hands of the advocates of free silver or of unlimited greenbacks, and the irrepressible conflict between good and bad money will be on. Anyone who has paid attention to the signs of the times will see that only blind fatuity will prevent the extremist of the West and South combining to sweep away "all the conservative forces of the East." The next Congress will be two-thirds in favor of free coinage, or even free greenbacks, unless some step is taken to obviate this danger.

The third step is the repeal of the 10 per cent tax on private bank issues. Abstractly and politically this is the safest course.

It may be admitted that for many purposes a bank bill is not as good as a gold dollar. But if based on gold it may for certain other purposes be as good as a gold dollar. The principle of division of labor teaches that universal money is not needed to pay local debts.

If a dollar will circulate freely where it is intended to circulate, that is enough. A man is not needed to do child's work. The clearing house certificates, representing nothing but private credit, and even under the ban of Government so far as it claimed to be money, went around the little tread mill of its duty and saved the Union, when the silver dollar and the gold dollar and the sovreign greenback and the "perfect" national bank bill were skulking in corners. If this bank certificate was so efficacious in time of panic, why should not the bank's bill be good in time of confidence?

The cry that bank issues must necessarily be dangerous is met by the teaching of history showing what private banks of the Middle Ages did for sound money when Governments were issuing clipped and debased coins and worthless paper. It was the banks that made Governments honest. There is no reason today why the bankers of Charleston should not be as intelligent and honest as their fathers or themselves were before the war.

This talk about wildcat currency is absurd. So swift are methods of communication today that a bank would be compelled to redeem its issues or suspend in a month. Nothing but a good bank bill would ever get out of sight of the bank.

The advantages of the private bank bill are as follows:

It can be based on a gold reserve, whereas the silver dollar will depend on its on value.

It will diminish the pressure on national money, and thereby permit the Government to resist Government inflation.

It will supply a local want within a circle in which it performs every function of money.

It will serve as a stock for local loans on property that has no lending value in the great centres, but is thoroughly good security.

It will not be congested in the great money centres, but will be confined within the several States.

All objections to it as local money can be met by State regulation, and there is an abundance of national money to supply all the wants of national exchange.

The system of State banks is opposed by theorists who endeavor to secure a perfect money in every respect regardless of political conditions by those who wish to control all loans and by those who believe that a national currency system is the only safe one. It is opposed no less by the silver kings and miners who see in it no opportunity to sell their products at an inflated value by those who want paper fiat money, and by those who want the Government to take all business into its hands.

A word now of warning. There are many who wish to secure a safe financial system and will join conservative forces to obtain it. But they feel that the present condition of affairs is not just to the producers of the country. Phenominally low prices and the want of a supply for loans have combined to run the farmers to the wall, along with many others. They are determined to have more facilities of some kind for loans. They will take good money if they can get it, but bad money if they must. If the question narrows itself down to the issue between the present system and free silver the masses will take the latter every time. And the masses have lots of votes.

The capitalists of the North have the matter in their own hands now. They can effect a compromise on free banking. But if they blindly set themselves to work to thwart every change they will find that they may be overwhelmed in the deluge of wild financial schemes. If they refuse to accept bank bills they will be forced pretty soon to take something they detest still more.

A recent writer in the Forum has shown that the silver agitation in Colorado and other Western States has become a craze. The necessity of the South are driving its people to ally themselves with the advocates of more money, whether paper or silver. In South Carolina thousands of rock-ribbed Democrats who have no use for the Ocala platform unite in its demand for silver, because it seems to be the only practical way out of the desert. Let them see that there is another and a better way.

A new Congress will be elected this fall. Unless Mr. Cleveland and his immediate counsellors make some compromise they will be powerless next year by veto or any other way to control affairs.

There will be either free banking or free silver in the near future. Let capitilists take their choice. The political situation grettly modifies the financial problem. It is wise to do the best one can, and to do it when one can.

R. MEANS DAVIS.

South Carolina College, Columbia S.C., March 24, 1894.

The State's Pensioners.

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 28.—The State pensioners will, in a short time, receive the annual quota of the pension appropriation. For the past week the clerk of the pension board has been revising the rolls sent in by the various county pension boards, and the work is nearly completed. There are only three more counties—Fairfield, Marion and Kershaw—in which a further revision will have to be made before the board can take final action and order the preparation of the warrants to be sent to each pensioner. From the returns as made up there has been a total increase since last year of only ten pensioners. The number this year is 2,265, as against 2,255 last year. The ordinary expenses, etc., for this year will be paid out of the amount held over from last year's appropriation. This will include about $1,100, the amount of the expenses of the several county boards. The per capita payment which each pensioner will receive for the year will not be less than $22, and it is all to be paid at once. The warrants are to be sent to the several county clerks of court for distribution to the pensioners.

The following shows the number of pensioners in each county for this and last year:

	1894.	1893.
Abbeville	66	70
Aiken	58	53
Anderson	148	151
Barnwell	52	56
Beaufort	1	1
Berkeley	18	19
Charleston	45	45
Chester	34	33
Chesterfield	86	83
Clarendon	46	49
Colleton	67	64
Darlington	68	64
Edgefield	105	105
Fairfield	59	57
Florence	32	31
Georgetown	2	2
Greenville	164	159
Hampton	42	40
Horry	35	37
Kershaw	45	45
Lancaster	64	66
Laurens	75	77
Lexington	55	68
Marion	93	68
Marlboro	36	34
Newberry	41	45
Oconee	82	85
Orangeburg	48	51
Pickens	57	54
Richland	42	43
Spartanburg	210	203
Sumter	54	54
Union	75	70
Williamsburg	35	34
York	125	120
Total	2,265	2,255

In Jail.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 23.—William Ingram, a young farmer living near Evergreen, Ala., was married last night. Toward midnight a party of friends surrounded his house and commenced a serenade, using for instruments tin cans, cow bells, etc. Ingram became so incensed that he seized an axe and running to the door, hurled it into the crowd. The sharp edge struct a young man named Jim Dixon and cleaved his spinal column producing death. Ingram surrendered, and is spending his honeymoon in jail.

A ROW IN DARLINGTON.

AN ARMED MOB WANTED TO ATTACK STATE CONSTABLES.

The Guns of the Darlington Guards Taken from the Armory to Make the Militia Powerless—The Full Story of the Affair.

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 29.—There came near being a big riot in Darlington yesterday over the raiding of blind tigers by State constables. The matter fortunately passed over without bloodshed, but the indications for some time were for serious trouble.

The first known of the trouble here was about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when Governor Tillman received a telegram from Dispenser Floyd saying that raids were being made and that a mob was on the streets armed with Winchesters. From then on until 9 o'clock last night the wires between here and Darlington were kept hot with telegrams.

As will be seen from the story published below the mob took the arms of the Darlington Guards, leaving no armed organization to uphold the law. Governor Tillman promptly provided for the maintainance of the law by telegraphing to Sumter and putting the Sumter Light Infantry in readiness to go to Darlington and by arranging for a special train to take the company to Darlington.

The full story of the trouble is found in the following telegrams. These are all the telegrams which passed between the Governor and Darlington and Sumter and Charleston. The telegrams are published in the order in which they were sent and received and explain themselves:

DARLINGTON, S. C., March 28.

Constables raiding. Armed men walking streets swearing they will shoot. J. B. FLOYD.

—

To Sheriff Scarborough, Darlington, S. C.:

Columbia, S. C., March 28.

I expect you to preserve the peace and see that the law is upheld.

B. R. TILLMAN.

—

Darlington, March 28.

Fighting sure. Mens with guns swear they are going to kill.

J. P. KIRVEN.

—

W. H. Lawrence, Darlington:

Wire me how many constables in Darlington. Keep me posted.

B. R. Tillman.

—

Captain Darlington Guards, Darlington, S. C.:

Put your command under orders of Sheriff and preserve the peace.

B. R. TILLMAN Governor.

—

Darlington, March 28.

Guns taken away from Darlington Guards by mob. J. B. FLOYD.

—

Darlington, March 28.

Six constables here. Not enough to hold crowd down. Winchesters and shot guns displayed. C. B. SWAN.

—

Captain Darlington Guards:

I hear your arms have been taken by mob. Answer if this is true.

B. B. TILLMAN.

—

Sheriff Scarborough, Darlington, S. C.:

If you do not arrest those resisting the law and assist constables in their work it will be the worse for you. Darlington Guards ordered to obey your commands. Answer.

B. R. TILLMAN, Governor.

—

C. B. Swan, Darlington, S. C.:

Sheriff has been ordered to assist you and Darlington Guards ordered to obey his orders. Do your duty.

B. R. TILLMAN, Governor.

—

Darlington, S. C., March 28.

No trouble here and no prospects of any, but a good matured crowd in town. I can keep the peace.

W. F. DARGAN, Mayor.

—

Darlington, S. C., March 28.

Telegram received. Have conferred with Sheriff who says there is no danger of breach of the peace and no necessity for ordering out malitia.

HENRY T. THOMPSON,
Captain Darlington Guards.

—

Darlington, March 28.

All quiet. Don't anticipate any trouble. If necessary will wire.

GEORGE P. SCARBOROUGH.

—

To J. B. Floyd, Darlington, S. C.:

Chief constable has been ordered to Darlington. Have warrants sworn out against all persons who resisted the constables for riot, conspiracy and resisting an officer. Attorney General will come down tomorrow. Gaillard will make the arrests. B. R. TILLMAN.

Darlington, March 28.

On receipt of your first telegram I went to the court house and was in consultation with officers of my command concerning it, when during my absence from the armory a party of citizens went there and took possession of guns. On hearing of it I went to them and demanded that they surrender them immediately, which they did. I now have all the guns back and have taken such precautions as will effectually prevent a recurrence of the incident. Everything quiet.

HENRY T. THOMPSON,
Captain Darlington Guards.

EVERYTHING QUIET.

At 9 o'clock last night the Governor got a telegram that everything was then quiet in Darlington.

The following telegram was received at 7 o'clock last night. It had evidently been written early in the afternoon:

Darlington, March 28

Things look very squally. Threats being made. Guns and rifles being displayed. Have aided constables all I can. G. P. SCARBOROUGH,
Sheriff.

SUMTER WAS READY.

When the Governor heard that the arms of the Darlington company had been taken he sent and received the following telegram:

W. R. Delgar, Sumter, S. C.:

Can I get a special train to carry military from Sumter to Darlington. Answer quick. B. R. TILLMAN,
Governor.

—

Captain Sumter Light Infantry:

Can your company be relied on to uphold the law? A mob has possession of Darlington. Answer.

B. R. TILLMAN, Governor.

—

Sumter, S. C., March 28.

The Sumter Light Infantry will uphold the law. A. C. PHELPS, Captain.

—

Sumter, S. C., March 28.

Yes, sir. W. R. DELGAR, S. A.

—

W. R. Delgar, Sumter:

Thanks. Things have quieted down and may not need it. B. R. TILLMAN,
Governor.

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Captain A. C. Phelps, Sumter, S. C.:

Later advices report things now quiet at Darlington. If I need you will wire.

B. R. TILLMAN, Governor.

GAILLARD ORDERED TO DARLINGTON.

The following telegram was sent to Chief Constable Gaillard at 5 o'clock in the afternoon:

Take your entire force of constables, armed with Winchesters to Darlington tonight. B. R. TILLMAN, Governor.

A TRIHLE ALLIANCE.

DARLINGTON, S. C., March 29.—Everything is perfectly quiet here now. The Sumter Light Infantry are here, and are quartered in the Guards' armory. There was really no occasion for their being ordered out. Sumter, Florence and Cheraw have all sent offers of assistance in case of necessity.

A large meeting of the citizens of Darlington, Sumter and Florence was held at the court house this afternoon, at which the following resolutions were passed, without a dissenting vote:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting:

First. That a man's house is his castle, and that he is expected to defend the same against all unreasonable searches.

Second. That in the counties of Darlington, Florence and Sumter search of private residences, private rooms and private apartments, used by their owners as dwellings and not as places of trade, shall be neither tolerated nor permitted. We hereby pledge ourselves to resist all such unlawful depredations.

Third. That the citizens of Darlington, Florence and Sumter hereby mutually pledge themselves to support each other in resistance to all such unlawful acts, and we invite the co-operation of all other law-abiding and liberty-loving citizens.

FLORENCE ALLIES.

FLORENCE, March 29.—The people of Florence have been in a state of excitement all day, waiting anxiously for news from the "seat of war." By 6 o'clock this morning the notice was heard clicking over the wires, warning Darlington that a reinforcement of twenty-five constable would pay that town a visit to-day Later on there came a telegram from Darlington, saying that they expected trouble. Thereupon a party of citizens chartered a special train, and reached Darlington at 2:15 p. m. Immediately afterwards a joint meeting of citizens of Darlington, Sumter and Florence counties was held in the court house. Addresses were made and resolutions read and adopted.

At 4 o'clock the Darlington Guards, twenty-five in number, marched down to the deopt to meet the Sumter Light Infantry; these latter arrived on a special train at 5 o'clock, forty-three strong. Capt. Phelps in commond. The companies then marched together to the Darlington Guards' armory.

The meeting of citizens had adjourned to witness the arrival of the military. They resumed business at 5:15 p. m., adopted further resolutions, listened to spirited addresses and adjurned at 6. No trouble is expected to occur just now. The constable have been refused accommodation at any of the hotels there, and are staying closely cooped at the sheriff's own house. They did not appear on the streets. There is no disposition on the part of our citizens to resist the majesty of the law, but they propose maintaining the Constitutional exemption of private dwellings from unreasonable searches.

MAYOR DARGAN TALKS.

DARLINGTON, March 29.—There is no mob in Darlington nor has there been any. No one has defied the law or any authority. The reports current and sent abroad are absolutely without foundation and have been originated and promulgated by irresponsible and evil-minded persons from fear or malice. I assured the Governor by wire that there was no row or prospect of one and that I could keep the peace of the town. The peace has been kept and that, too, by the ordinary number of police on duty.

During the constabulary raids which were made without hindrance or molestation, some one circulated the report that raids would be made on private houses. Immediately some five or six, or possibly eight, men got double-barreled shot guns, and openly asserted that resistance would be made. The constables were than in a different part of the town. I immediately went to the sheriff, who accompanied the raiding party, and asked if there were warrants for the search of private houses. He assured me that there were none. I then went to the men who had the guns and told them there was no foundation for the report and to put up their guns, which was immediately done. Everything quieted down.

A short time afterwards a rumor was spread that Mr. C. S. McCullough had dared the constables to raid his home and that the constables had accepted his challenge. Immediately McCullogh's friends rushed for his residendence on Pearl street. The constables were then on Broad street, and perfectly ignorant of what was going on. On the way to McCullough's house they met McCullough, who assured his friends that there was no truth in the rumor. Everybody turned back and the guns were again put up, and all became quiet.

A rumor soon spread that the Governor had ordered out the Darlington Guards. Somebody said good naturedly. "Confound the Guards; we will go take their guns." A few then rushed to the armory and took out a few of the guns, which were unloaded, and appeared with them on the street, laughing and joking. As soon as I saw this I told several that their action might be misconstrued and to carry the guns back. About this time Capt. Thompson, who had been out of his office a few minutes, heard about the guns being out and ordered them returned, which was done. All this was a joke and occasioned no alarm to any one on the streets not even to ladies and children, who during the whole of it were walking about except that it offered the opportunity, too eagerly sought for by some of the faithful, to rush a telegram off to the Governor.

I am the peace officer of this town and I can keep it better than the sheriff, the constabulary or the militia, and I intend to keep it and will be backed by a hundred good citizens if I need them, and when I fail, will call for aid and not before. I have assured the Governor, the sheriff, the Attorney General and the chief constable, that I could and would keep the peace, but it seems that the Governor, at least, persists in believing to the contrary. I am satisfied the sheriff and the chief constable believe it.

W. F. DARGAN, Mayor.

The War is Over.

AUGUSTA, GA. March 24.—Col. D. B. Dyer, who was elected colonel of the 6th Georgia regiment, was called on tonight by a committee from differernt companies and officially notified of his election. Col. Dyer was forced on account of business to refuse the office, and another man will have to be selected Col. Dyer's election as colonel of the Georgia reiment was significant from the fact that he is a Republican, and was an officer in the Union army.

A SUMTER SENSATION.

JUDGE BENET ACCUSED OF GAMBLING WITH CARDS.

He Indignantly Denies the Charge from the Bench, and Says He Was Only Engaging in a Social Game of Whist With Friends.

Week before last, the Sumter Freeman, an Alliance paper that is very much opposed to Gov. Tillman, remarked editorially that Judge Benet of this circuit, who was then holding court in Sumter, was a prototype of Judge Mackey. The Manning Times did not like this, and said some pretty sharp things about the editor of the Freeman, whereupon the editor of the said paper had the following to say in last week's paper:

"Since the Manning Times undertakes to report rumors about the favorable impression Judge Benet has made upon our people here we regard it as essential to truth and to a future proper administration of justice that we should publish the rumors of a different character that are passing around thick and fast. We hear that since Judge Benet has been here presiding in the day time in our Courts he has been almost every night playing cards with persons known as professionals. Of course every body has heard that Judge Benet before his election was a notorious gambler, but since his election it was hoped he would try to mend his ways a little. It is distressing to think he has not done so. We know that the foreman of the grand jury has had his attention called to this matter and we hope it will be well ventilated before we are through with it. We want no gambling Judges."

Upon seeing the above Judge Benet in open Court at Sumter last Wednesday morning made the following statement:

I wish the attention of the members of the Bar and the juros present and the jurors and officers of the Court concerning a matter which has arisen since the adjournment of Court yesterday. It is a very painful matter, which I cannot well pass over.

When I left the Court House yesterday evening and got to my lodging I found in my mail a newspaper, published in this town, addressed to me and marked in certain places. In that paper I was openly charged with consorting with professional gamblers of Sumter and spending my nights card playing and gambling.

The charge has been made against me openly as a Judge. I have no means of redress, except to answer it from the bench as a Judge. The office I hold deprives me of the ordinary personal means of redress, and while it is true that office puts in my hands power by which such conduct might be justly and severely punished, I will not use this power in my own behalf.

I do say as a true man the charge is false, absolutely false, without even the semblance of truth as a foundation for it.

Gentlemen, I feel I owe this statement to members of the Bar, of whose profession I am an humble member. I feel I owe it to the officers of the Court, who have been so kind and courteous to myself. I owe it to the jurors who are present and the grand jury who are absent, especially in view of my charge to the grand jury concerning their duty as officers of the law. I know I owe it to the people, whose representatives elected me to the office I now hold. I owe it to the good men and women of Sumter, whose kind hospitality I have enjoyed. I owe it to the office I now hold, however inefficiently. I owe it to myself and to those who bear my name to say that the man who wrote this charge wrote what was utterly untrue, without excuse and without foundation. I cannot comprehend what motive he had: I hardly know the man. I never cross his path, I know no reason whatever for his attack. He must have been shamefully imposed upon by his informant, or he must have wilfully believed lies that were told him. I therefore fe