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The Duke of Darlington.

A South Carolinian Who has been at the Party Helm for Twenty-two Years—A Politician, a Diplomat and a Leader of Great Force of Character—His Leadership Endorsed.

Columbia, S. C.—Edmund H. Deas, the Republican State Chairman, was in the city yesterday on his way to Washington where he is going to look after a number of things that are in the air in Republican circles just now. The recent death of Collector Webster, the National Committeeman from this State, has started a great deal of talk about the status and future of the Republican organization in South Carolina, and the old line Republicans are beginning to take on new life with the advent of President Roosevelt.

Deas is not only the State Chairman of the party organization but he is now virtually Webster's successor on the National Committee also. He goes to Washington having in his pocket the endorsement in writing of 18 of the 24 members of the Republican State Committee for the position of National Committeemen succeeding Webster. This amounts to his election by the committee. He does not intend, he says, to retain both positions, but will do so for the present, until things are more settled than they are just now.

Yesterday Deas was considerably wrought up over the column article on the local page of The News and Courier yesterday in regard to the Republican situation in this State. In speaking of the matter he said:

"In the article headed, 'Mr. Blalock Wins,' it is stated that there will be an appointment in two or three days. I myself am willing to put up \$1,000 that there will be no appointment in two or three weeks. And I am willing to wager another \$1,000 that Mr. John G. Capers will never be National Committeeman. This article bears the earmarks of the captain. It is a nice way to win the favor of the Negroes by reflecting on them as he has done in this article. He ought not to think that he can run over the Republicans in South Carolina roughshod while he himself is a registered voter in the State of Maryland. This article is only intended to force and intimidate the Negro into endorsing him. It says: 'It is not out of place just here, in passing, to remind some of the Negroes who are holding office that they are loosening the hold they once had on a job by doubling in politics: It is said that there is an axe for every Negro holding office in Charleston, and I suppose it is meant that there is also one for every Negro holding office in South Carolina. Their names have been entered, it is alleged, on the sacrifice counter and they are to be handed down, and so quickly that they will not know what hit them. They will not listen, however, and the men who have the federal patronage

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MAJOR L. W. C. BLALOCK, Goldsville, S. C.



HON. E. H. DEAS, Darlington, S. C.

Major L. W. C. Blalock.

A New Leader in South Carolina Politics and the Choice of the Republican Leaders of his State for Political Preferment—A Successful Business Man who is Popular alike with all Classes.

For more than a decade it has been the policy of the Republican Presidents to search assiduously for the key to the solution of the Southern problem. Since the days of the lamented Garfield, the succeeding Republican Presidents have watched the South, as it were, and have done all in their power to destroy that imaginary line known as Mason and Dixon. The Spanish-American war gave President McKinley the key to the situation and he left no stone unturned to bring about the feeling of one country, one flag, one common people. Southern men were put in high commands in the regiments organized in the South and every consideration was given to any regiment that even the Confederate General recommended. So successful was the policy of President McKinley that at his untimely death the problem was nearly solved. The policy of President Roosevelt is already foreshadowed. He proposes to handle the situation in the South in a practical, common-sense way and, already the edict has gone forth that the best men in the South and especially those who represent the intelligence and wealth, will denominate and dictate the Federal offices. In all of the Southern States there are leaders of character and of standing, who have heretofore taken but little part in politics. This is true not only of the white but the colored men as well.

The death of Internal Revenue Collector Webster, of South Carolina, brings to public attention more than ever the South Carolina situation. Among the leaders of that State is Col. L. W. C. Blalock, of Goldsville, S. C. He is a successful business man, is the secretary and treasurer of one of the largest cotton mills in the State and has been elected a number of times to office by his constituents. He was formerly Mayor of Newberry, S. C. Col. Blalock represents the new element in South Carolina politics. He is a native of the State and entered into active politics about 1888. He represents the conservative, though progressive, element of his party in the State. Himself a man of means and a successful business man, he has the confidence not only of the best white citizens of his State but is known as a friend to the colored people and has championed their cause in season and out of season.

In conversation with Col. Blalock he gave expression to the following sentiment: "I believe President Roosevelt is easily the master of the situation in the South and that his policy will be to appoint the best men to office and to use such influence as will bring about the best results. I am a native of the State, was born there

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