The Press and Banner

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

Published every Wednesday at $2 a year in advance.

Wednesday, March 23, 1892

Senator Hill Swings the Circle.

Senator David B. Hill, of New York, came South last week, visiting Atlanta, Augusta, Savannah and some other cities in the South. He made several speeches during the trip, and he was the recipient of distinguished honors in the cities where he stopped. He is a possible candidate for President on the Democratic ticket, but, judging from his speeches, he will not be a possible President.

Tickets to the State Convention to go and return, good until 27th, $5.20 from Abbeville. Same rate from other points.

THE CHARADES.

Splendid Entertainment in the Court House Wednesday Evening, March 30.

The young ladies will give their entertainment in the Court House next Wednesday night, March 30.

An incomparable program of artistic music, sweet song, bewitching beauty, pleasing decorations, and an array of captivating garniture will all join in a grand chorus, giving to female loveliness its richest charm.

The best talent, the most lovely women, and a superb play, are sure to bring gladness to every heart.

Even the hearts of those who may have grown old and callous will be rejuvenated and awakened and attuned to sweeter thoughts and brighter hopes.

If any are weary and feel that the earth is a dreary place, or that the sun has lost something of its accustomed brightness, let them come to the Court House on Wednesday night, and be refreshed by an hour's presence with angelic childhood, and realize something of the transports which may be imparted by the adorable divinities, who will there make rapturous appeals to our sympathizing minds and sympathetic hearts.

COMPLIMENTARY SERENADE

Mayor Hill is the Recipient of a Distinguished Honor From the Abbeville Band.

The Abbeville Cornet Band serenaded Mr. R. McGowan Hill one night last week on his election to the office of Intendant of the town of Abbeville. After playing several choice pieces Intendant Hill invited the members into his house and treated them to a royal spread. The compliment to Mr. Hill was intended as an evidence of the high esteem in which he was held by the members of the band.

Mr. Hill enters on his official career under the most favorable circumstances, and his sagacity and business tact will be brought to the discharge of his official duties.

TEMPERANCE MEETING.

Distinguished Orators Will Address Enthusiastic Temperance Workers.

THERE will be a temperance meeting in town on Monday. Rev. H. F. Chreitzburg and others will make talks. If agreeable and a sufficient number can be secured a lodge of the I. O. G. T. will be established. A number of visitors from Due West are expected.

COLONEL ORR'S MISTAKE.

Treasurer Blake Rises to a Question of Privilege.

Editor Press and Banner:

In the speech of Col. Orr delivered at Laurens on the 18th instant, occurs a statement which I desire to correct through your columns.

In holding Gov. Tillman responsible for the non-payment of taxes by the railroads, he uses the following language:

"Some of you ask if he is responsible for it. I say, yes. It was his duty as Governor to instruct the treasurers when the railroads tendered the county taxes to accept and give a receipt *Quo tanto*, instead of which he instructed them to refuse and to-day we are in the humiliating position of the State of South Carolina going into Courts to try to make the railroads pay taxes we refused to take."

So far as the above statement pertains to the Treasurer of Abbeville county it is absolutely erroneous, as the attorney who tendered the money and other witnesses will testify. The Governor neither instructed the Treasurer to refuse the money, nor did the Treasurer refuse it, but offered to take it, and give the railroad credit to that amount for the taxes it was due.

We can scarcely conceive how Gov. Tillman can be responsible for the action of the Treasurers in this matter, when the railroads put their scheme into execution almost at the expiration of the time for collecting taxes, when the Treasurer's office was crowded with tax-payers, and when the limited time precluded any correspondence between the Governor and Treasurer, except by wire.

Notwithstanding this the Treasurer of Abbeville county, upon his own responsibility, and without consultation with any of the State authorities, offered to receive the amount tendered by the representative of the railroad companies, and to receipt for the same. Not of course in full of their taxes, but *quo tanto*, which was refused, Hon. J. L. Orr to the contrary notwithstanding.

Such a perversion of facts only discloses the motives which prompted the statement, and not in accord with a strictly peace policy.

Respectfully, J. R. Blake, Jr.,
County Treasurer.

LOWNDESVILLE LETTER.

All About the People and Their Neighbors.

Lowndesville, S C., March 19, 1892.

Mrs. J. P. Young, of Anderson, came down Saturday and was the guest of Mr. J. T. Latimer for a few days.

Mrs. J. Daniels and Miss Herndon, of Anderson, reached here Saturday evening, and remained till Monday.

Rev. C. V. Barnes worshipped with the Methodists Sunday night.

Miss Carrie Thompson, of Anderson county, spent a few days with the family of Mr. A. Z. Bowman and other kinsmen in this community, beginning Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Latimer left for Kingstree last week, being summoned there by telegram to see Dr. Brockington, the father of the latter, who was very sick.

Mr. T. H. Verdell, of Elbert county, Ga., came over Saturday on a visit to the family of his uncle, Dr. A. J. Speer.

Miss Willie LeRoy went to Atlanta, Ga., Monday for a few days visit.

Mr. J. O. Chambers took a business trip to Atlanta Monday.

The eighteen days meeting in Smyrna church closed Wednesday night. There were forty-five conversions, sixteen additions, and seventeen who professed sanctification. The Rev. L. L. Pickett, of Columbia, preached twice a day, giving to his many hearers plain, practical, able sermons. The membership was revived and much good done.

On Friday the Hon. J. E. Brazeale, of Anderson, was in our town.

A good delegation of our citizens attended the meeting at Abbeville Friday. Lowndesville is always ready for every "good word and work."

Yesterday and to-day can be counted full teams as to cold days. Yesterday especially being one of the coldest of the season.

Mr. T. Baker is having his dwelling repaired, thereby adding much to its looks.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Huckabee and their children, who have spent the past few months in Georgia, returned to this place Friday.

Rev. R. P. Franks is having his yard paling nicely painted, which will add greatly to the appearance of his premises.

A few days ago a country man, living a few miles out of town, was considerably surprised at one of our townsmen for hauling stable manure out to his farm to put under his corn, when he, the first mentioned, was buying guano at a big price, and was hauling it to an adjoining farm to manure his crop with. "Oh, consistency, thou art a jewel."

This week's Press and Banner was hard to beat. Your patent inside mixes things wonderfully. Under the heading, "Agricultural," two columns are given to subjects about as foreign to that word as it is possible for anything to be. Under it we find "A Fearless Maine Girl," "The Alexandra Limp," "Odd Pillows," "Suspenders for Girls," a lot of fashion notes, &c.

On the "home raised" part of the Press and Banner we find a very conservative letter from Col. W. C. McGowan. In it is outlined a policy which should be pursued by every well wisher to our beloved State. It is broad, liberal, statesman-like. All should heed it, and be governed accordingly.

Next we call attention to the letter of Mr. David Aiken, who by it has proven himself to be "a chip of the old block." He "hits square out from the shoulder." Hurrah for Aiken. Troupe.

DEMOCRATIC MASS MEETING.

ABBEVILLE ELECTS DELEGATES TO THE MARCH CONVENTION.

Enthusiastic Assembly of Our Fellow-Citizens Resolve to Enter Politics—Conservative Speeches—Appeal for Harmony—Demand for a Primary—Reasonable Request—Delegates to Go Uninstructed.

Last Friday at twelve o'clock the Abbeville Cornet Band played two or three pieces of enlivening music in front of the Court House, which was recognized as the signal for the assembling of the Democratic meeting which had been advertised for that day. When the band ceased to play, the call was made and the Court Room was at once well filled with citizens representing different sections, every man who was there has made his own estimate it would be useless for the editor himself to venture to estimate the number, but it may be well enough to state that the estimates that we have heard vary from 250 down to 122, the latter figure being claimed as actual count.

When the election was being held the meeting was suspended in order to give those present an opportunity to prepare their ballots, which, because of the number of delegates nominated and the number to be voted for, required sometime, and it seemed that many persons present at the meeting had no particular preference or choice among the good men who were nominated, and many left the meeting without waiting to vote. Besides those voting, and those who sympathised with the meeting, but did not care to vote, it is thought that about twenty-five persons were present who did not sympathise with the movement. The actual number of votes cast, we have heard, was 110.

The attendance, the enthusiasm and the success of the meeting was a most gratifying surprise to its projectors, and it is evident that the opposition to the present rule will henceforth make a most vigorous fight.

The methods of arraignment which were inaugurated by Governor Tillman, and which have been copied by his organs, have been carried too far, and have brought forth unexpected results.

It seems to the Press and Banner that it would have been the part of wisdom for Governor Tillman and his followers to have ceased the warfare on the opposition after they were successful in the election and safely installed in office. It is the history of politicians that they do not as a rule, after they are in office, seek wantonly to drive the steel into the souls of their former political opponents. When in office the methods of the politician are subordinated to the higher duties of the officer.

Governor Tillman, by his unprecedented methods in 1890, swept the State by an overwhelming majority. He had perhaps fourfifths of the people with him, and yet, strange to say, he and his organs, have ever since seemed anxious to go gunning for the small minority who were, for the time, overawed by the mere force of numbers. But, the disposition to trample the vanquished minority under foot, the unceasing ridicule which has been directed at them, together with the never ending misrepresentation of the motives and principles of those who did not agree with them, has so exasperated those who were maligned that they have determined to turn upon their pursuers and will now give them battle to the bitter end.

It matters not as to the immediate result of the impending conflict. Even though Tillman's opponents are beaten in the fray, they will no longer quietly submit to unceasing irritation.

Even if reason and justice should fail to gain their fight in 1892, the battle is joined, and the struggle will continue until the highest officers of the State will have a better and a nobler ambition than the besmirching of somebody's good name.

But this editor has no disposition to forestall the action of the meeting.

On motion of W. C. McGowan, Esq., Hon. J. C. Maxwell was called to the chair.

On motion of Hon. W. H. Parker, Capt. R. J. Robinson was requested to act as Secretary.

Dr. Maxwell's Speech.

Taking the chair, Dr. Maxwell said:

Gentlemen of the Convention—I thank you the honor of presiding over so large and intelligent a convention. The Court House is well filled, and had it not been for this miserable weather and disappointment in not getting a train this house would have been packed. I see before me many farmers who have come from the remotest corners of this large county to take part in the conservative, patriotic purpose of this meeting.

I thank them and I thank Messrs. Calhoun, Graydon and McGowan and others for their aid in securing this enthusiastic meeting. I hold in my hand a telegram from Ninety-Six saying twenty-five intended coming.

THE ORIGIN OF THE MOVEMENT.

In January I was asked if I would meet a number of gentlemen from different parts of the State in Columbia for conference, I replied that I would, but suggested to them a prominent citizen of this village in my place. Afterwards I received a notice to meet in Columbia on February 4th. The result of that meeting was the address of the "Thirteen." It was the purpose of that address to be conservative in tone and positive in our demand that we act strictly in the lines of the Democratic party. The call has been criticised by both friends and foe, but we knew no better plan of getting the question before the people.

Col. Earle had to make his gallant fight two years ago, even without the sanction of a convention. The "Thirteen" thought it would be best to make a nomination on the 24th, but that and all other action will be left entirely with the convention of the 24th, provided that action is in the Democratic party. Many of our friends think, to let the Tillman party alone they will go to pieces. I cannot think so. To let them alone means Tillman as our United States Senator and a weaker and perhaps worse man as our future Governor.

NO VICTORY WON WITHOUT A FIGHT.

The Federal, Whig and Knownothing parties were not killed by being let alone, but by opposition. It was the fight of Tillman and Cleveland that weakened the Republican party. It was the fight of the Democrats in '76 that gave us control of this State. If a continuous fight had been kept up against the politicians in power in this county they would never have had such sweeping sway.

Our foes say the "Thirteen" were officers seekers, I do not believe there is but one of the "Thirteen" who could be induced to make a canvass for office, but if we had all been office seekers, the charge comes with ill-grace from the gentleman who made the charge on this floor several days ago. That gentleman was an applicant for Trial Justice under Scott, for Judge under Moses, has been a candidate for either the House or Senate ever since '76—except two years—was an applicant for Brigadier General—had his name connected with the Judgeship when the late Judge Thomson was elected—when he had the nomination for the Senate in '86, felt his way for Secretary of State—while holding over as your Senator, made the race for Clerk of the Court—while still your Senator, it is rumored that he again had his eye upon the position of Secretary of State and has already boasted that he would be Governor Tillman's successor as Governor.

WHAT TILLMAN PROMISED—THE FINANCES.

Gentlemen—the Tillman canvass promised you a reduction of expenses—they have failed to give it to you—they have created instead of abolishing offices—they have not reduced a salary. The Governor has cost you $150,000 by refusing to let the Coosaw Company continue work until the Courts decided the rights of the State. He has increased your expenses by the employment of counsel and unnecessary litigation in the Coosaw case, the Agricultural Hall and other matters. I have been charitable enough to believe that the low price of State bonds is due to the fact that investors do not wish to buy bonds that are due, but a friend who is frequently in the Northern markets, thinks it is fear of the State Government. Whether Tillman is responsible for the low price of bonds or not—he is certainly responsible for not being able to procure money to buy all that are offered at 94 cents, and for not floating the balance at four instead of six per cent.

PROMISES NOT KEPT.

Gentlemen—let us refer to one or two departments to see if the promises of reform have been kept. Our officers have not been extravagantly paid, but to harmonize our people, I am in favor of moderately reducing all salaries to meet the demands of the present hard times, we have only four officers who are extravagantly paid. The two Scargents-at-arms should not receive more than the members. The two clerks should be paid $500 instead of $1,000. It is a hard month's work, but $300 would be a big month's pay. Who fills those offices—my friend Dr. Sam Pope, who has vibrated from medicine to law, and from South Carolina to Texas ever since the war. Who has attended more economic canvasses than any member of the General Assembly, and who is said always to keep a sharp eye on Congress or a Railroad Commissioner, but he never says reduce the clerks salary. Gen. Gray, a reformer, an ex-member of the Legislature, a candidate in 1877 for Commissioner of the Court of Claims—for Comptroller General, &c., but he says nothing about reducing the clerks salary.

WHERE SOME MONEY HAS GONE.

Let us refer to the South Carolina College—I am not fighting this institution, I favor giving it every dollar necessary, but I want to show the position of reformers, ten years ago it was said, if Abbeville could only change its Senator, a reformer would reduce the expenses—during my ten years service the highest appropriation was between sixteen and seventeen thousand dollars, now after removing a large part of it to Clemson, the appropriation is thirty thousand dollars. This is the retrenchment you get from the promises of reformers.

Let us refer to the expenses of the Senate—ten years ago we had usually two committee clerks, one year under the pressure of business before committee on Incorporation, we had three—now they have five—then we had two crippled door-keepers, now they have four—five additional officers and six hundred dollars additional expenses.

GETTING READY FOR BUSINESS.

Gentlemen, again, thanking you for your kindness we will now proceed to the business for which we have assembled.

W. C. McGowan—Would it not be well, Mr. Chairman, to state the object of the meeting?

Chairman—The object of this meeting is to elect delegates to the State Convention which will meet on the 21th of March. That Convention will determine its own action, and will be governed by the majority of the delegates present. Is the meeting ready for business?

Resolutions.

W. C. McGowan—Mr. Chairman and fellow Democrats I would offer the following resolutions, for the consideration of this meeting:

Whereas, there are many good Democrats in Abbeville County who are dissatisfied with the present administration of the State Government;

And whereas, the Democratic party is threatened with serious dangers by reason of dissension among its members;

And whereas, white supremacy and Democratic rule can only be perpetuated in our State by harmony and unity among the white Democrats;

And whereas, it is necessary, and is the inalienable right of conservative and patriotic citizens to meet together and deliberate as to the best methods of restoring peace and harmony in our party and good government to the people. Be it

Resolved 1st. That we, Democratic voters of Abbeville County, endorse the call for a convention of Democrats to be held in Columbia on the 24th of this month, for the purpose of devising means whereby the unity of the Democratic party may be preserved.

Resolved 2nd. That our delegates to said Convention be instructed to advocate and vote for a direct primary for nomination of State officers.

Resolved 3rd. That we endorse heartily the Farmers' Movement and their original platform, and will advocate any and all measures, within constitutional limits, that look to the advancement of the farmer; and that all utterances to the effect that the fight against Gov. Tillman and his administration, is a fight against the farmer, is the veriest nonsense and demagogical "bosh."

Speech of W. C. McGowan, Esq.—The Resolutions which He Introduced.

Mr. Chairman—Before we go into the election of delegates I have some resolutions I desire to offer. And fellow Democrats, allow me first to congratulate you upon this splendid meeting which under such adverse circumstances is most gratifying. When we consider the lateness of the "call" and when we remember the ceaseless taunts and threats and ridicule of the opposition, it means a great deal that so many have faced the bitter cold of this dismal day and have come as far as 23 miles by private conveyance to attend this meeting. It means that there is manhood and independence in the old county yet, and the "hand-writing" this day writ by you upon the political "wall" is in letters so large that even the blindest Tillmanite may "read as he runs."

WHAT WE ARE HERE FOR.

We are not here, fellow citizens, to abuse and villify. We are here as earnest Democrats, as conservative citizens who have the good of our State at heart and who have the right to meet together to discuss men and measures.

We are not satisfied with Gov. Tillman and his administration, and we have the right to meet and make known our complaints. This is a free county and this right no man nor set of men can deny us.

The time is come for honest men who have the courage of their convictions to speak them out boldly and bravely. Too many of us have been silent too long. No yoke was ever thrown off except by determined, outspoken effort and by hard work. Silence and inaction is to play directly into the hands of those who oppose us, and gentlemen, there is such a thing as "enough being a plenty." Gov. Tillman has been in power for two years—quite long enough to prove to all thinking and unbiased men that he is a rash and dangerous leader.

ONE MAN POWER NOT DESIRABLE.

Had his Legislature passed all the laws that Gov. Tillman demanded the government of our State would now be absolutely in the hands of one man. I, for one, am not yet willing to place the government of my country into the hands of any one man, be he the wisest and best that ever lived, because it is in direct opposition to the principles of free republican institutions, viz: "a government of the people, for the people and by the people."

Gov. Tillman who pretends to be the leader of the people, who has often declared that he would never depart from a single principle of republican government, piled most cruelly his party lash to compel his followers to enact laws that which would have made him a Czar. Be it said to the credit of the Legislature that even they declined to go to such extremes. Gov. Tillman has boldly said that he intended to be re-elected and what is more, that he will have a Legislature this time who will do his bidding. If he succeeds, then he will not be the leader of the people but a most imprudent man vested with dangerous power; he will not be your Governor but your Boss. Are you as freeman, living under a republican constitution which guarantees to you political rights, willing to submit to this? So far as I am concerned—"enough is a plenty."

A CAREER OF MISTAKES.

I do not care to take up too much of your time, or to repeat what has been so well said by Dr. Maxwell; but grant, as has been said that Gov. Tillman being human has only made "mistakes," (and to call them mistakes is tender merciful and kind.) Go yet a step further—grant that he has made only honest "mistakes," are you willing to continue a man in office whose whole official career is overflowing with the most fatal mistakes?

Our credit crippled, our party split and a presidential conflict upon us, is it wise to continue a man in power who boldly plunges into the most dangerous experimental legislation regardless of cost or consequence? I tell you fellow Democrats, it is time to call a halt and begin to think.

As I do not care to detain you too long, I desire to bring to your attention but two of the many complaints against Gov. Tillman and his administration.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

1. As to the financial condition of our State and the injury done our credit.

In 1893 we will have coming due over six millions of State debt. It is an honest debt. It can be met in but two ways (1) refund; it or (2) pay it.

Gov. Tillman's administration has made the effort to refund it at 4 per cent. and has failed. That is to say, to exchange the present 6 per cent. bonds for new 4 per cent. bonds. Under a normal and healthy state of affairs this could have been easily done, as was done a few years back when the whole issue of "Green or Deficiency" bonds were refunded at 4½ per cent. If our State government commanded confidence at home and abroad the whole debt would before this have been refunded. Of the $6,000,000 but $29,000 has been taken, although very expensive arrangements were made for the purpose.

And this is not the worst of it! If Gov. Tillman is re-elected, in my judgment, they will not refund another dollar. I do not believe they can accomplish it at 6 much less 4 per cent.; while our sister State of Georgia has refunded her entire debt at 3½ per cent.

Gov. Tillman and his administration are directly responsible for this injury to our public credit, and you will feel the disastrous effects of his ill-administration in the next few years far more than you feel it now.

Do you not believe that this one matter alone is sufficient to make the thoughtful stop and think?

If that debt is not refunded, you—the taxpayers—will have it to pay; and if we do, I tell you the taxes for 1893-4 will make the oldest inhabitant open wide his eyes.

Capital is proverbially timid. If monied men have no confidence in the stability of the government, then the debt cannot be refunded at even 10 per cent. This is a most serious and alarming question.

DECEIT AND DECEPTION PRACTICED UPON THE PEOPLE.

2. My other complaint is the deceit and deception practiced upon you by Gov. Tillman and his Legislature in making the levy for taxes for 1890-1.

Gov. Tillman was under promise to lower the taxes. He knew when he made the promise he could not keep it for our taxes were then less than almost any State in the Union. But standing for re-election, he knew the first question asked would be, "have the taxes been lowered?" and he has political sagacity enough to know that if the taxes were increased it would be hard for him to answer. So was not the order issued that the levy must not be increased? The undoubted result is a deficiency in almost every county. Was not our own delegation informed, officially, that the levy as proposed for Abbeville was too low and if not increased that a deficiency would be the result? Nevertheless the levy was put too low and to-day we have a considerable deficiency in this county. The irresistible and legitimate conclusion from this is that the desire was to deceive the people. By the time the levy would come again to pay this deficiency Gov. Tillman would be re-elected, perhaps gone to the United States Senate. He knows that the tax-payers will in the end have this deficiency to pay and that it was but damming up the waters for a future day. He thought, however, the dam would not break in his day or certainly not before the next election, and in the meantime he would get credit for low taxes. Knowing the original levy was too low it was an unpardonable and indefensible act of deceit, to make that appear as true which was not true.

WE ASK FOR A PRIMARY.

In the resolutions I offer we make only a fair and reasonable request. We ask for a direct primary. We pledge ourselves to fight within the party and under the rules, and if Gov. Tillman polls a majority in the State to give him our support.

Is this not fair? Will any patriotic man refuse it when refusal leads to a split party and negro rule? We are more opposed to Independents than to Tillman. We are conservative men wanting only what is right. A direct primary is the main plank in the original platform of the Farmers Movement, and I cannot see how any man who has the good of his State at heart, who desires to see harmony and unity among the white people of the State, can deny that the only absolutely fair way to settle the matter is by a primary. The majority shall rule—very true, but show us who has the majority.

If Gov. Tillman refuses this reasonable demand it proves conclusively that he prefers discord to peace, dissension to unity, and that he hopes to perpetuate his power by a base appeal to prejudice and to class. I cannot believe that a man of Gov. Tillman's ability and in the face of his numberless fair promises that he will refuse it.

WE ARE DEMOCRATS AND INTEND TO REMAIN IN THE PARTY.

We are Democrats and intend to remain and fight in the Democratic party—despite all threats and ridicule and the hackneyed cry of "Independent" and "Bolter."

We are neither Independents nor Bolters. We have rights inside the Democratic party and there we mean to assert them.

NOT OPPOSED TO THE FARMER.

All this talk that the fight against Tillman is a fight against the farmer is ridiculous buncombe and demagogical bosh. The man who is opposed to the farmer is either an idiot or an ass. We are an agricultural people. The prosperity of the farmer means the prosperity of us all. Our interests are the same. Therefore, when day after day it is hurled into your ears that the fight against Tillman is a fight against the farmer, you can recognize at a glance the threadbare wall of the demagogue. It is amazing that men of intelligence will indulge in such argument, but it is still more amazing that there should be found men so blind and gullable as to be taken in by it.

AN ABIDING FAITH IN ABBEVILLE COUNTY.

I have an abiding faith in the good sense of Abbeville county. Give her time and she has never yet failed to right herself. I firmly believe if the argument is fairly presented; if an appeal is made to the judgment and reason rather than to passion and prejudice; if the situation is discussed in a calm, dispassionate and moderate manner, that the good sound sense of Abbeville county will prevail. Our people do their own thinking, and while some of the people may be fooled part of the time, all of the people cannot be fooled all the time.

Let us send wise, conservative and discreet men to Columbia. The Convention will be a splendid body of men who will do nothing rash, and I cannot think that Gov. Tillman will add the greatest to his now long list of "mistakes" by refusing the reasonable demand of that body for a primary.

WE HAVE A FIGHTING CHANCE.

Let us make a fair and honest but determined fight. I believe we have a good fighting chance, but if we fail it is no disgrace to fail fighting for the right. We stand on principle. Truth is mighty and will prevail; it may wane for a time but as sure as heaven, in the long run, the right must triumph.

I would rather lose on principle than to win—if success means to swallow principle, to appeal to prejudice and to class, and to trim our sails to suit every passing political breeze.

If our meetings result in nothing but organization, it is well. The fight is on—the Rubicon is passed, and the sooner we make every preparation for battle the better.

Give old Abbeville the argument and it is but a question of time. Give us James L. Orr for Governor and the days of Tillman are numbered.

Speech of Prof. Wm. Hood.

Prof. Hood, in seconding the resolutions, spoke substantially as follows:

Prof. Hood—I rise to second the resolutions and to endorse the remarks which have been made by Mr. McGowan and the President of this meeting.

I repudiate the charge that I am opposed to the farmer. When he falls I perish. There is no war on the farmer unless it be by those who are deceiving him and leading him astray.

I know that the farmers are not intending to injure the State. They are patriotic citizens who have as great a love for the old State as I have, and, like other citizens, they are trying to serve the State well, and endeavoring to promote the prosperity of the Commonwealth which is the mother of us all.

We should let the farmer as well as the remainder of mankind, know that this is a peace convention, that ours is a peace party, whole sole purpose it is to send wise and conservative men to Columbia, whose chief and only aim is to bring harmony and unity of purpose among all our people. Their office will be that of the peace-maker, and their labor will be to heal the existing breach between neighbors and friends. They go to Columbia to make peace. That is the burden of the commission which they will bear from us.

Have we become so far embittered, or alienated, that we cannot meet to-day and make an earnest effort to heal our differences, and again live as a united and harmonious political party? I hope not. Speaking for myself, I have neither ill feeling nor malice toward Governor Tillman. He, too, is my neighbor, and his feelings I respect.

We have met to try to heal the breach which now exists, and to adopt resolutions and to elect delegates which may promote this object, and to take action as may prevent the split in reality, even if we should fall far short of accomplishing the full measure of our intentions.

Let us strive for a free, open, and honest direct primary for State officers.

A direct primary will heal the breach.

I hold that I am brave enough to stand up for my rights, and I claim that I am also brave enough to yield the rights of others. If we can poll a majority of the votes in a direct primary I claim that we are entitled to the nomination, but if Governor Tillman should receive a majority of the votes, I will acquiesce and give him my hearty support in the General Election.

But until that day comes, I will not acquiesce nor willingly put myself in a position to lose my franchise.

Ours has always been the conservative wing of the Democratic party, and I have no disposition to say one word which may widen the breach. For this reason I will not recount the methods of the last campaign. They cut too deep, however, and wounded too severely for us to rest under it.

Before the war, the contest in our elections continued to the end. But, now, under the new order of things and surrounded as we are, we cannot risk the old methods. The Democratic party must get together before the final day, and the direct primary is the only plan by which we may come together and present a solid front to the common enemy. That party is not dead. It sleeps or lies dormant in our very midst, ready to spring into existence at any time, and to wrest from us our very dearest rights. The danger is not from within the party, but it lies in the ranks of those who are unalterably opposed to us and to our interests.

We want a clean chart, a united Democracy, and a harmonious whole.

When the May Convention meets, it will be the people in Convention. The people are supreme. All power rests with them. They can undo anything, and they can do whatever they please.

The March Convention is merely a petitioner to the May Convention. I know mistakes are made. It is human to err, but it is divine to forgive. If they choose to give us the right to vote, peace will be restored.

Let us go to Columbia. Let us make the advance to the other party. Until our reasonable request is refused, I shall hope that our petition will be heard, and that our neighbors may be willing to bring peace to our disturbed State.

I don't know that Governor Tillman is responsible for the depreciation of our bonds and the injury which our credit has sustained in the commercial world, but I know the fact that our lack of credit is a cause for dissatisfaction. The State, like the citizen, needs good credit, and without good credit both the State and the citizen must suffer.

But the worst feature in our financial troubles is the fact that the State itself is in collision with its own citizens. The State is to-day using the Courts in every county of the State to make warfare on its citizens, the result of which is to effect property values, to prevent the respective creditors of the State and the different counties from collecting the moneys which may be due to them, thus creating in the public mind a feeling of insecurity as to the integrity of the Commonwealth of which we are all so proud, and which we love so well.

Speech of E. G. Graydon, Esq.

Mr. Chairman:

This large and enthusiastic meeting shows that our people are interested in the prosperity and welfare of the State. Let it be understood, as stated in the resolutions, that there is no antagonism in this movement to the farmers. Their interests are the interests of the whole people. We are making this fight against H. B. Tillman. We are opposed to him because we believe that his administration has already done almost incalculable injury to the State, and that to continue him in power two years longer would bring still greater evils upon us.

Before he came upon the stage we were a united and happy people. Our political condition compared favorably with that of any State in the Union. Our State government had the confidence of all the people at home and was respected abroad.

Just before the March Convention was held in 1890 our State bonds were worth from 102½ to 103. Now they are worth only 94 including interest accumulated. I believe Tillman's administration is responsible for it. Just here let me say, I do not think my friend Prof. Hood has stated the case strongly enough when he says that the loss to the State in this matter is $250,000. A depreciation of nearly ten per cent. on $6,000,000 of bonds shows a loss of over $500,000.

We are opposed to him because we believe he has destroyed confidence in our State government at home and abroad. We are opposed to him because he has practically divided the Democratic party in the State into two hostile factions. We are opposed to him because he has not kept his promises or redeemed his pledges. Our people were led to expect great things from him. They asked him for bread, and he gave them a stone. They asked him for a fish, and he gave them a serpent.

Two years ago he promised to have a direct primary for Governor and other State officers. He did not fulfill that promise. He promised retrenchment and reform. Not an office has been abolished, not a salary has been reduced, not a dollar has been saved in any way.

Can any one show that the Tillman administration has done any good to the State? What other result has all this upheaval had than to put a lot of unworthy office-seekers into office? All over the State we have seen all the sore-headed politicians and disappointed office-seekers flocking to Tillman's standard and obtaining office by swinging on to his coat tail and professing a devouring and consuming love for the farmer. We want to see these unworthy men swept from power. We want to restore respect for our government at home and confidence in it abroad.

Another objection to Tillman is his desire to concentrate power in himself, his evident determination to run all the departments of the government to suit himself. In his message to the Legislature he bitterly denounced Judge Wallace because he would not sustain Tillman in an unlawful attempt to remove the Supervisor of Registration of Charleston county from office.

Immediately after the Legislature adjourned he denounced the members of it as "dead, rotten driftwood," because they would not do everything he wanted them to do.

A voice—Was he very far wrong in calling some of them "dead, rotten driftwood?"

Perhaps not. At any rate, many of the counties have not much to be proud of in their Representatives, although they were elected on account of their loyalty to Tillman.

We don't want any man to exercise all the powers of government. We don't want a boss. We are a free people, and it is inconsistent with freedom for any one man, no matter if he be the ablest and purest in the State, to have too much power.

I believe this March Convention is on the right line. I believe if it is well attended by able and conservative men it will result in great good. I believe if the situation is clearly placed before the people, they will repudiate and drive from place and power this selfish faction that has well nigh disrupted the Democratic party, and that has ruined the credit of the State and made her name a byword.

I believe that a majority of our people are in favor of unifying and harmonizing the Democratic party and of restoring and maintaining the high standards that prevailed in this State before B. R. Tillman became a factor in our politics.

Let us, then, send to Columbia a delegation of sensible and conservative men, and let us do all in our power to assist in this movement. We can never hope to have a united party and a State government that will give satisfaction to all our people until Tillman and his associates are swept from power.

I fully indorse these resolutions. Let us have a square fight, and if a majority of the Democratic party want to continue Tillman in power let them say so, and all who are opposed to him will cheerfully acquiesce in the result.

The Chairman—Mr. Graydon will you tell us before you take your seat, how the lawyers that have been employed by the State to assist the Attorney General in the Coosaw case and in the Agricultural Hall and Railroad litigation have been paid or are to be paid?

Mr. Graydon—I do not know whether any payments have been made or not. I saw some time ago that the report of the Attorney General for the last fiscal year has not been printed. It ought to show what payments, if any, have been made. The Attorney General used to attend to all the State's litigation, but it seems she now needs the services of associate counsel. Several prominent lawyers have been employed, and it may be assumed that they will want pay for their services and good round sums at that. The State will have to foot the bills, and if they have not been paid, it is probable that the next Legislature will be asked to appropriate money for that purpose.

Speech of Wm. P. Calhoun, Esq.

The following is a synopsis of the speech of Colonel Calhoun.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention:

The Chairman asked the gentleman who has just taken his seat if he could explain how the attorneys who have been employed by the State to do the work of the Attorney General have been paid and how much. No one as yet seems to know, but to take a common sense view of the matter, I would say that the State, of course, will have to pay them with the money of the people.

The salary of the Attorney General is too small for him to be able to employ assistance and to pay for all of the extra work that has been done within the past two years. I set the ball in motion that brought about this meeting, and it pleases me to see that it is such a success, and that those who said that it would be a failure have been shown that good Democracy is still alive in Abbeville County. I am glad because the large attendance has disappointed so many of those who are opposed to good government in South Carolina.

One of our county papers went so far as to say that because thirteen signed the call for this meeting, and because, the day (Friday) appointed for the meeting were both Ominous, that they were signs of the failure of the meeting. These evil prophets proved to be false phophets, and men who are entirely unable to read the signs of the times,—since the real significance, if any, at all, to be given to those signs, was that this meeting here to-day was a signal of the defeat of Tillman and his crowd of office seekers and demagogues.

The stock in trade of these same politicians and demagogues, is the cry that all of those who oppose Tillman are opposed to the farmers. Their only hope of keeping themselves in office is to keep up strife and by unfair representation and making the farmers believe that we who oppose Tillman only have one object in view, and that is to put our feet on the neck of the farmer and to crush him into the earth.

What nonsense! The statement is not true, and it those who make it do not know better, they ought to know it. We are strictly a farming people. Every industry, occupation and calling in Abbeville County depends upon farming for a support. I do not consider myself fool enough to work against my own interests. I have hundred of dollars invested in farming and in lands, and I would like to have more land and a greater interest in farming.

This being the case, does any one imagine for one moment that I would be fool enough to join in a move of this kind if it was against my interests, and that I would fight an occupation out of which I am making a living.

Every man who is here to-day is in the same condition that I am, and they are men of too much common sense to do any thing that would in the least hurt the farmers of the county. I tell you, my friends, that the controlling element in the life of every man, is self; and self-interest compels us to be on the side of the farmer,—and that alone should refute the charge that we are opposed to the interests of the farmer. The man who is really opposed to the interests of the farmer is the chronic office seeker and the demagogue who is willing to make any sacrifice to get office; and who tries to mislead the farmer by statements that are not true and by hiding the true condition of affairs in order to gain his own ends. He cares nothing for the people or the welfare of the government, just so he secures a fat office.

The men who are now in office in this State seem determined to hold on to office even though neighbor is made to fight neighbor, friend to fight friend, brother to fight brother and our people and our government are crushed to the earth.

There seems to be no inclination on their part to try to compromise matters and to restore peace and harmony in our divided household for the good of the whole people, because they know full well that if this is done they will be relegated to the walks of private life, and the sweet pap of office taken from their grasp. They grasp office with a death grip; and they intend, it seems, to hold that grip on the throat of the government and the people of the State till both are strangled.

This meeting to-day is an effort to remove that grip from the throat of poor suffering South Carolina, to restore her to life and to give people political freedom.

If these men desire that the people shall see light, and if they desire to see good government in the State and peace among us, why do they not stop their abuse of every effort to bring our people together? Why do they not tell the real condition of our governmental affairs? Tell the simple truth and then our people will know how to act.

Let those who are claiming to be the leaders of the people, and have charge of the government, tell that since Tillman was elected Governor that our State bonds have gone down from one hundred and two dollars to about ninety-three dollars a share, thus causing those who own the bonds to lose about five hundred and forty thousand dollars; and that our bonded indebtness falls due next year, and that it will either have to be refunded or paid; and that so far only twenty-nine thousand dollars worth of them have been refunded, with the prospect ahead that the Tillman government cannot refund them except at a ruinous rate. The amount of this bonded indebtedness is about six millions of dollars.

Tell them that by his want of business capacity, Tillman has lost to the State about one hundred thousand dollars, in the management of the Coosaw matter; that he has employed more attorneys to assist in doing the work of the Attorney General in carrying on cases that there were no necessity for, than any other Governor, in any two years, ever employed; that enough money has not been raised to meet the ordinary expenses of the counties, and that this seems to have been done in order to fool the people into believing that the taxes were reduced, when it is a fact that the Tillman administration has spent forty thousand dollars more then any previous administration since '76; that the indications are that there will be a deficiency of about two hundred thousand dollars in the tax collections of this year, brought about by the qualization of the assessment of property by the Courts. These and numbers of other facts that every voter ought to know are the reasons for this meeting.

President—Are there any other remarks on the resolution? If not, Mr. McGowan will please read them again.

AS TO NOMINATIONS.

The resolutions were then read and unanimously adopted.

T. F. Riley—I desire to introduce a resolution in reference to the nomination of a suitable standard bearer in the coming campaign.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that James L. Orr is the right man to suggest for Governor, and that our delegates to Columbia be instructed to vote for him if he allows his name to be used.

G. C. Bradley—I think the resolution is premature. This is not the time to make nominations. Individually, I am in favor of Orr, but I am opposed to making nominations now. Let us go to the March Convention, ask for a primary, then put up our man, and run him for all that he is worth.

W. Hood—I agree with Mr. Bradley, and think it better for the March Convention to make no nominations.

W. P. Calhoun—I would suggest that our delegates go uninstructed.

T. F. Riley—I see that there is objection to my resolution, and I therefore withdraw it.

President—How shall the delegates to the Convention be elected?

W. P. Calhoun—Let a committee be appointed to nominate twelve suitable persons.

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