

BY HUGH WILSON.

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

RUN BY HOWLERS.

AIRFIELD'S FAIR FAME TRAMPLED IN THE DUST.

Earle, Duncan, Harrison and Whitman Howled at by a Faw, Who Succeeded in Making the Meeting the Most Disgraceful of the Campaign.

WINNSBORO, S. C., Aug. 5.—The campaign meeting here yesterday was a disgrace to the county and the State. There was more rowdiness in the crowd than at any other meeting up to date, a circumstance deplored by the orderly, law-abiding citizens of the county without regard to political faction. Six or eight men not only made disgusting spectacles of themselves by howling at speakers with whose sentiments they did not agree, but by their conduct brought odium upon their county and State. In justice, it must be said that the assemblage as a whole was attentive and anxious to hear, but a little coterie of half a dozen or more men not only would permit them to listen, but almost precipitated a fight. The most charitable thing to say of them is that they were drunk, for it would be hard to imagine how men in their right minds would create such a disturbance over nothing. The same speeches were made that have been made throughout the State, and which have been listened to quietly and decently elsewhere; not a word was uttered to justify the outrageous and riotous conduct of these few men. When the chief of police attempted to quiet two of these men, they were seized by their friends to their arrest and it took the combined efforts of Governor Evans, Sheriff Ellison and other peaceable citizens to quiet them and prevent a fight, though nobody wanted to fight them. They seemed bent solely on creating a disturbance and they abundantly succeeded in disgracing themselves and making a howling farce as far as Fairfield County is concerned.

There were probably 400 people at the meeting. The court house could not hold them, so the candidates spoke from an improvised platform in the court house yard in the broiling sun.

GOVERNOR EVANS OPENS.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Ferris and Chairman Lykes expressed the hope that the meeting would be a quiet and orderly one. He first introduced Governor Evans. He said the office of Governor was the greatest and most honorable that the people could bestow upon any man. While the office of United States Senator had a larger salary it was not a position of greater honor.

He asked for the office of United States Senator believing that he knew the needs of the people and the farmers. Eight years ago a manifesto was adopted in South Carolina, which has become the law of the Democratic party. He proposed to discuss those issues and not insinuations that may be made. You know all about those insinuations. He said he hoped these fellows could prove that he was to receive any rebates. He said he would take time to say something about the latest insinuations, which were that he wanted to buy from a firm that offered bribes. He said the man (Hubble) came to him and said he could supply cannons at from 5 to 15 cents less a pound than the State was paying.

He told the agent to put his prices in writing. He did so and the offers are now in the drawer in his office. He said he told the Commissioner of the offer, and he was told of an offer to give large rebates. He did not urge that liquor be bought from this agent and that was all he had to say about it. The attempt to sneer at me even is like a little fish which about to be caught gets out a black scum to hide itself. I defy any man to show that I ever got one cent from the Dispensary or any other department of the government that was not justly due me as an officer and honest man.

But we are to show our fitness to represent you in the national government. You must not think that because you won a victory in the State that you have won the fight. Don't think with you. You don't want to take frozen vipers to your bosom. Self preservation is the first law of nature and you farmers must stand together and put men in the national halls of legislature who represent your views.

The opponents of the farmers demands cursed us and called us anarchists. But we have made the Democratic party adopt our platform and our demands are the principles of that party.

Everything in this State depends upon the price of cotton but it has been going down and down. Why is it?

A voice: "That's what we want to know."

Governor Evans continuing said that the supply of money regulated the price. He went on to say that when he got to Washington he and Ben Tillman would have three eyes on the soundrels. They are trying to insinuate that Tillman is against me, but he said, "I know you. What they say goes in one ear and comes out the other." (Cheers.)

The question of free silver simply means we want to put more money in circulation, increase the price of cotton and other products and help you pay your debts. But they say this will run gold out of the country. But is that gold here? No. Cleveland has to issue over \$200,000,000 worth of bonds to keep \$150,000,000 of gold in the country. By that he took \$75 out of the pockets of every man, woman and child in the country and decreases the amount of money in the hands of the people. Free silver means \$6,000,000 a month more. If that is not enough we can issue greenbacks.

It's mighty easy for these fellows who never made a free silver speech before to come in now and do it since the fight has been won.

Governor Evans described the Chicago convention and how the goldbugs had been whipped raw, foot and dragoons. It was the grandest assemblage he said he ever saw. The goldbugs refused to vote—these men that called themselves Democrats. It was the grandest fight ever made for the farmers of the country.

He spoke of the money power as the most damnable thing in the world.

He said United States judges were a more terrible curse than all the enemies of the people put together. He referred to Judge Simonton's injunction as to cut rates and said it was most damnable tyranny. A man elected for life can defy the people. We must tell those judges that they can't stay in our father's house. We must kick them out like we did old Cleveland and the goldbugs from the temple of justice. He closed by predicting a victory for Bryan which would be a victory for the farmers. The fight must be continued in Congress and the people must send men there who are in sympathy with their demand. You must not for a moment lose sight of your demands. Governor Evans was loudly cheered and was presented with a bouquet when he concluded.

HOWLING DOWN COMMENCES.

Judge Earle was introduced and was received with cheers and counter cheers for Evans.

The judge said that he appeared to discuss issues dispassionately and without feeling. They should be discussed with intelligence and not for hurrahs from the boys. He said that he appeared before the people of Fairfield in 1890. He said then that the remedy for the evils which the people suffered was not to be found in the State governments, but the relief must come from Congress. If there is any hope for the country it must come from the Democratic party.

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The young man who made the remark was most effectually squelched and kept quiet from that on and never opened his mouth again to cheer friend or foe.

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No matter what the Reform party has done he had as much pride in it as any South Carolinian, but the remedy must come from the national legislation. In the first place there should be an income tax, so that men owning enormous fortunes should pay taxes in accordance with their wealth.

Another evil from which we suffer is the protective tariff. He then went into a discussion of the monetary question. He said he would explain what 16 to 1 was.

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Judge Earle: "This is a free country, and if you don't want to listen you have a perfect right to go off and not listen." (Hurrah for Earle.) Quiet was restored, and two or three men who had been creating most of the interruptions kept quiet for awhile.

Chairman Lykes exerted a wholesome influence by going among them and insisting that the speaker should be heard without interruption. After an interesting discussion of the question Judge Earle concluded, and got off the stand.

Mr. John Stevenson, County Dispenser, asked Judge Earle to go back as he wanted to ask him a question. The Judge went back.

Mr. Stevenson: "Why didn't you grant S. T. Howie bond in Greenville when he killed a blind tiger dealer?"

Judge Earle: "Because the records were such that bond ought not to have been granted."

Mr. Stevenson: "Do you know Luther Trammel?"

Judge Earle: "Yes."

Mr. Stevenson: "Didn't he say to Mr. Mooney, your partner, that he would give \$500 to see that soundrel hung?"

Judge Earle: "Not that I know of."

Mr. Stevenson: "Don't you know Trammel is a notorious character?"

Judge Earle: "I do not. I will simply say I did my duty in this case, as I always have done."

Mr. Stevenson: "Don't you know he was acquitted?"

Judge Earle: "I'm glad of it, because I want no good man convicted, but I want to say from the facts set forth in the papers presented to me bail could not be granted."

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He made reference to lawyers getting all the good things of office when he was interrupted by some one asking whether he was not a lawyer. Mr. Duncan made reply that he had studied law to keep up with the boys. He was interrupted by remarks inappropriate to the occasion, when some one asked: "Who's paying your expenses in this campaign?"

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Duncan: "I'm paying them myself."

He said that Evans was responsible for the low plane the campaign had been conducted on. This brought forth great cheering for Evans and it looked as if Duncan would be howled down, and as a matter of fact, he was before he concluded.

He continued by saying that he had the people of the State with him notwithstanding Evans went around with a body-guard.

Several in the crowd began to yell for Evans, and asked who Evans's body-guard. Great disorder followed, and it was some time before Mr. Duncan could resume. He said that if he had been Governor for two years he would have been Governor for two years, he did not believe it would be necessary for him to get his heels to howl for him. He had told Newbold that he was going to give Evans the devil for carrying him out with him.

A voice: "We are no heebers. You are one yourself." The man who said this jumped on the stand and shook his fist at Mr. Duncan, though it was evident he meant nothing by that.

Mr. Duncan said that even the body-guard, Mr. Newbold, had not gotten mad at him. Mr. Newbold was at the meeting, by the way, having come down from Chester on his bike, and was a spectator, taking no part in the fracas.

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AN ORDERLY MEETING.

THE CANDIDATES REQUESTED NOT TO INDULGE IN PERSONALITIES.

An Unusually Large Number of Questions Propounded and Answered—Notwithstanding Issues Were Discussed There Was Some Spirit in the Debate.

About five hundred people attended the campaign meeting at Orangeburg on last Thursday, and everything passed off very quietly. During the morning the following paper was presented to each candidate:

1. We, the Democrats of Orangeburg county, request the candidates for State and national offices to refrain from any personal allusions to the character and record of their opponents.

2. That they be requested to speak on the issues of the day and their own records as public officers.

3. That we discountenance all re-primand and vituperation.

4. That we be allowed to support such men as we deem best for the good of the State, without suggestions from the candidates.

The resolutions had not been adopted by the county executive committee, and who the authors of the resolutions were did not appear. The meeting was held in a pretty grove on the outskirts of the town. Very excellent music was furnished between acts by the Orangeburg brass band—an organization of which the citizens of the town are justly proud.

At 11 o'clock Congressman J. Wm. Stokes, acting for County Chairman Lowman, who was sick, called the meeting to order and Mr. E. H. House prayed. Dr. Stokes asked that an audience be attentive, and give every speaker a respectful hearing. If any one desired to propound a question he hoped it would be asked in a respectful manner and a respectful answer be given.

Gen. Richbourg and Gen. Watts were the first speakers. Each of these gentlemen wanted the office of Adjutant and Inspector General, and neither of them is backward in asking for it. After they got through Judge Earle was introduced.

JUDGE EARLE SPEAKS.

Before he had proceeded far several young men in front of the stand were talking in a loud tone. "If you wish to speak, gentlemen, come on the stand," said Gen. Earle.

"Go ahead, Mr. Earle," said a voice. "Keep your men quiet," called another.

General Earle did not ask them to vote for him because he was a Reformer. He would not deceive them if he could. He simply asked that they vote for him because he was a Democrat. He had declared in 1890 that the Shell manifesto was false and he had gone upon the stump and proved his assertion. He had proved that charges against his office were false. Did any man blame him for doing that? No man should be afraid of the light or the truth. "I say to you old men, teach your sons to be men—to fear God and God alone. Teach them to be true to themselves." He had gone upon the stump in 1890 and told the people that what was oppressing them could not be remedied by legislative or State officers—they needed relief elsewhere.

When General Earle proceeded to a discussion of the financial question, demonstrating how values had shrunk in the last 20 years, how impossible it was for a farmer who had a mortgage on his land to get out of debt, he received earnest attention. He closed by hoping to soon see the day when Conservatives and Reformers would be names only; he wished a united people to work together for South Carolina's prosperity and glory.

As General Earle was taking his seat, Mr. Ed Zeigler, a young man who had been standing immediately in front of the speakers, called to him, but his question was drowned by the band. Zeigler requested the chairman to notify Gen. Earle that he was wanted to answer a question. When the band ceased playing Gen. Earle advanced to the front and said he was informed some one wished to ask him a question.

Zeigler—Do you expect the vote of the ignorant voters of this county?

Earle—That is not a proper question. Zeigler—Do you say, as has been said by one of your supporters in this town, that only the ignorant men were going to vote for Evans and Duncan?

Earle—I would not insult the honest men of this county by replying to such a question. (Cheers for Earle.)

General Earle took his seat, but immediately jumped up and going to the front said: "Let me ask that gentleman what office he holds here?"

Zeigler—I hold a position that I don't have to resign in order to run for office.

Earle—I'll guarantee you are employed in the dispensary. (Cries of "Yes" and cheers for Earle.)

Earle—I have nothing to say against the dispensary. I believe it has done good and will do good under proper management, but I do not think that it should be brought into politics in this way.

Zeigler had gotten upon upon the stand when Judge Earle asked his question and stood near him, but did not succeed in making an impression. He asked General Earle who had prompted him to ask whether he was a clerk in the dispensary. Earle replied that he asked the question and it was for Zeigler to answer. Zeigler did not give his testimony in this matter, but it was not needed and for the remainder of the meeting he did not seem to be quite so demonstrative.

GOV. EVANS INTRODUCED.

Gov. Evans was cheered. He asked the "boys" to keep quiet because he was going to talk gospel. The people knew there was something wrong with the State government in 1890; they knew they were being oppressed and that they had gotten relief by putting B. R. Tillman in the governor's office. He supposed that if his opponent had been elected in 1890 that the people would be here today looking at the people in the face. Gen. Earle had said the Shell manifesto was a lie; but it was the creed of the farmers in '90; it was the banner they had fought under, and if it was a lie in '90 it was a lie now, but he asserted that it was not false. Were the farmers going to put men in office who had called them Populists in 1890? They had won the State fight, but they must now rest and be lulled into a sleep of security by hollow words. The people must not let themselves be fooled. They required something more of a man than that he should simply call himself a Demo-

crat—that had gotten common. Haskell called himself a better Democrat than Tillman; Hill had gained fame by his "I am a Democrat," yet he was going to vote for McKinley. "Any man who wants to get office in South Carolina has got to be a true and tried Alliance Reform Democrat."

Bill Snell—it looks like they want to bring us lower than the black race. Evans—That's it; but they can't do it, and we'll put you on the high seat in the sanctuary. (Cheers.)

Gov. Evans made reference to the time when he would be located in Washington, pulling for the boys.

Voice—Earle, Earle.

Evans—Say, you early bird, I've clipped your wings long ago, now hush. (Cheers.) You have only got one tail feather left, and I'll pull that out before I am through.

The governor then made a pass at the monetary question. He finds it exceedingly difficult to refrain from pointing a moral or adorning a tale during such discussion, and in five minutes usually returns to this State and the Reform fight.

Gov. Evans was proceeding to read statistics on the amount of gold in circulation, showing that if the people were entirely dependent on gold there would be but \$3.07 per capita, when an auditor told him never mind about that. The people knew how it was.

But, said Evans, there is something more important than free silver, more important than the President, it was the—

A Voice—The supreme court.

Evans—That's it. It's those men who sit on the high bench and try to crush the people. The governor proceeded to criticize Simonton for his action in preventing two competing roads from cutting rates, when such cuts helped the farmers. It was an outrage. Would he stop merchants from cutting rates? No, he knows his masters; the corporations own him and he had to respond.

Evans said he was going to the senate on the fast express. He would not leave a grease spot of his competitors after the primary on the 25th of August. (Cheers.)

Mr. Zeigler remarked that "We want a United States Constitutional convention just like South Carolina had and old Ben Tillman and Evans will give it to us."

Gov. Evans made some reference to the Charleston morning paper supporting one of his competitors and having headlines which showed its opposition to him.

Just before the calling of time on him, Gov. Evans said: "I was handed yesterday by the Gospel Temperance Union some questions, and I will answer them, so the newspapers can get it."

Snell—The newspapers lie so you should not answer them.

Evans—I suppose they are asked because they think I can't answer them. He then read the questions, as follows, making his replies to each one:

Question 1—Did you, during Governor Tillman's administration, use your influence to procure special privileges outside of the provisions of the dispensary law for the sale of beer by the Charleston brewers?

Answer—No. I did not. I'd like to see a man use his influence on old Ben to grant special privileges to anybody. (Cheers.)

Question 2—Will you point out the authority of law under which you acted as governor and chairman of the State board of control in 1895, in granting what are known as special privileges to certain individuals for the sale of beer in Columbia and Charleston? Did you not make such appointments without authority of law, and without the consent or approval of the State board of control, of which you were chairman? If so, what were your reasons for making such appointments without the authority of law?

Answer—The State board of control had a right to make rules. The Charleston brewery was given the privilege by Governor Tillman and I granted it to Mr. Seegers in Columbia. You could not let one have it without the other. The new board has, I think, granted privileges. I don't know whether it has the right to do so.

Question 3—Have you not at sundry times while chairman of the board of control, received presents of liquors from dealers who were supplying