

The Farmers' Convention.

The "Farmers' Convention" met in Columbia on Thursday, March 27. The Convention was called to order by Col. Shell, of Laurens. The proceedings were opened with prayer by Rev. D. W. Hott, of Anderson. Col. Shell then addressed the Convention as follows:

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION: As President of the Farmers' Association and ex-officio Chairman of the Executive Committee, it is my duty to call this body to order and organize it. It is not necessary to read the address issued by the committee, but in order to have a clear understanding as to our purposes in assembling here, I will proceed to read the call at the end of the address. It is as follows: [Here Mr. Shell read the last paragraph of his famous address, such paragraph containing the call for a convention. He then resumed his address.]

Now these things are very clear from this call. First, that this is a convention of Democrats, true and loyal, and that we are only exercising our rights as freemen to come together and, after consultation, take such action as we deem best. Second, that this is not a farmers' convention unless it is because other classes and callings have refused to have anything to do with electing delegates. Third, that it is a convention of those who sympathize with the views and purposes set forth in the address of the executive committee, and that if there are any delegates here opposed to the farmers' movement or the reforms demanded by it, they are here either under a misapprehension or they have come as obstructionists and marplots to create discord and thwart the friends of the convention. In this regard I know nothing except what I have seen in the papers; and it is not for me to decide upon the credentials of any delegate who appears here. The convention itself must be the judge of that matter. So I will pass on to other things.

It is perhaps incumbent upon me, and it will help to a clearer understanding of the situation, if I shall explain how and why I issued the address, a part of which has been read. The executive committee of the Farmers' Association is composed of one from each county, and under our constitution it has charge of everything connected with the management of the Association and is authorized to take any steps likely to aid the purposes for which the organization was formed. All of you have heard of the "Farmers' Movement" and what it has been trying to accomplish. The reforms demanded are clearly set forth in the address, and I shall not rehearse them, as all of you have read that document.

The executive committee held a meeting last November in this city. Sixteen counties were represented, and after a full discussion of the situation, and a careful consideration of what should be done, it ordered me to issue the address and call this convention. I had no discretion in the matter. I am only the mouth-piece of the committee.

Remembering how we had been tricked and betrayed during the last campaign, we decided that we must quietly surrender or make the issue fairly and squarely before the people and let them decide. It is necessary to begin early in order to get an even start, and from the howl that has been raised I think the Ring believes we have got it, and I say to you in all earnestness, if we have got it let us keep it, and when the Democratic Convention meets next August we can give these gentry a rest.

If you are not enojled or intimidated by the dust that has been raised, we will purify the Democratic party, and in November we will elect men to office who will have some regard for the rights and welfare of the people.

We do not want to forestall or dictate to the Democratic party, as has been charged, but we want a free and fair expression of the will of the party after the people have heard the issues discussed on the hustings, and by the Eternal God we intend to have it.

The cards have been stacked and the game lost often enough by these unfair methods, and we intend to have fair play or know the reason why. We want the majority to rule, and we propose to see that it does rule, and if it decides that we are wrong we will submit. If it decides that we are right our opponents must submit or bolt the ticket. All this talk about our dividing the party is bosh. We have been beaten, and that, too, by unfair means, and we submitted to it without a murmur. The accusation that we are doing everything to disrupt or endanger the party is an insult to us, and dishonors the man or paper that makes the charge.

I have no desire to boast of my own record, but as a soldier in the Confederate army, as a Democrat in 1876, as a man and as a citizen, I am ready to compare records with any of those who have abused and slandered me, and every leader of the Farmers' Movement, from Capt. Tillman down, can do as much. We did our duty in 1876, and were in the thickest of the fight for the redemption of the State from Radicalism, when many who are now abusing us were skulking around advocating Dan Chamberlain for Governor of South Carolina, Esau and Jacob.

We are doing our duty in trying to redeem the State from ring rule and make the Democratic party carry out its pledges to the people. There are more officers now than under the Republicans. Our taxes are nearly as much in dollars and while cotton is lower. Favoritism is the rule in dispensing the offices, and a man must belong to a certain "set" before he can expect to gain preferment. Men once elected to

office are kept there, often to the public injury, provided their social and family relations are aristocratic, and the Legislature has more than once acted in a way to create a suspicion of sinister influences at work.

The people know these things and have been mourning for years. Their cries have gone unheeded, and until the agitation for reform, known as the "Farmers' Movement," began four years ago, there appeared to be no remedy for these evils other than submission or an independent movement. But one was invented or discovered by a plain farmer, who had never been connected with politics. Capt. B. R. Tillman began to agitate for reform inside the party. His record as a Democrat, his character as a man are unimpeachable. The ability he displayed excited admiration, and the people rallied to his support from almost every county. The farmers began to move; they are moving still; they will keep on moving till they reach their destination, and that is to reform the party and purify the State Government. This is our business here, and we have but to act in harmony with proper discretion to accomplish both at the next election. Instead of his being abused, the State owes a heavy debt of gratitude to the man who showed us how to accomplish these ends and yet maintain the unity of the Anglo-Saxon race.

One word more and I am done. Taunts and accusations have been heaped upon me as an office-seeker, a demagogue, trying to array class against class—a man who had "slandered and misrepresented the State and its officers."

To the first charge I can only say that I am clerk of the Court in Laurens County and my people have kept me in that place for six years. I have been chosen to that place in primary election and the last time by a vote of 1,800 to 600 for my opponent.

I am not here seeking any office at your hands and I would not accept one if tendered to me. I am actuated by no selfish or ambitious motive, and have spent my time and money for four years for the love of the cause. If it succeeds under my leadership it will be glory enough for me. I have never attacked any class of my fellow citizens. In Laurens County my friends are among all classes, and those who accuse me of arranging class against class have simply said what they cannot prove.

In regard to the address of the executive committee, every one knows I am not responsible for it alone. As chairman I signed it, but it is the work of the committee. But I endorse every line and every assertion made in it, and I challenge any one to disprove the charges. We are ready to go to the people on these issues, and if they are slanders and lies it can be shown that they are such, but thus far not one has been refuted, and I know they cannot be.

In conclusion, gentlemen of the Convention, I would say that this is the most important meeting that has been held in South Carolina since 1876. There is much to be thought of, much is to be done and we should be in no hurry. We should deliberate calmly, hear all sides patiently, "be sure we are right and then go ahead." Differences of opinion we are bound to have. Acknowledging the patriotism and loyalty of one another, let us differ in a kindly spirit and yield obedience to the majority. If, after the majority has spoken, we act in unity and move forward as a band of brothers, success is bound to crown our work.

In obedience to the executive committee, I announce as temporary chairman Mr. W. J. Tolbert, of Edgfield, who will proceed to perfect the organization.

A committee of one delegate from each county was appointed on credentials. Mr. S. Y. Stripling was elected as the member from Oconee. The only real contest was from Spartanburg, which had two delegations. Two delegates from one delegation and eight from the other were seated. Thirty-one counties were represented. The counties unrepresented were Horry, Hampton, Kershaw, Georgetown. The delegation from Oconee, consisting of Messrs. A. P. Crisp, J. R. Earle, Jr., Andrew Bearden, J. A. Johns, S. Y. Stripling and W. J. Neville, were present.

Ex-Senator Tolbert, of Edgfield, temporary Chairman of the Convention, was made the permanent presiding officer. Mr. J. E. Wannamaker, of Orangeburg, was elected Vice President. Messrs. John D. Duncan, of Newberry, and J. W. Stokes, of Orangeburg, were elected Secretaries.

President Tolbert addressed the Convention at length. His remarks were singularly free from bitterness and exceedingly tolerant in tone. He regarded this as the most important convention that had ever been held in South Carolina, and he took his elevation to the position of presiding over its deliberations as a grand compliment. Our purpose, he said, is to discuss the interests of the agriculturists of the State. We are not here to quarrel with anybody. We have simply assembled here as freemen, as gentlemen, as American citizens, to discuss matters. We are assembled as Democrats—the bone and sinew of the Democratic party. I see around me the same faces which led the forlorn hope of the Democracy in 1876, and rescued the State from negro rule and Radicalism. There may be honest differences in the Democratic party. At any rate we think so, and there is no reason to doubt the devotion of those in our ranks who assemble to demand what we think are our rights. He who is suspicious is deserving of suspicion himself. It's always the thief who cries "stop thief!" as he is pursued in the streets. I can't see anything that is unfair in this meeting. We have the right within the party to lay down the platform of our principles. The people have felt that there was danger of tyranny, and they have determined to guard against it. They expect us to give them immediate relief. I

hope to live long enough to see the masses of the people arise in their might and majesty and protect the public treasury from plunder, and to wrest the reins of power from the hands of the concentrated few. Retrenchment and economy in the management of the Government is what we seek. I want it distinctly understood that I am not one of those who charge corruption in high places in South Carolina. I utterly repudiate any such charge. But I do say that there has been extravagance, and that we must unload it. We must remember, however, that as gentlemen, freemen and Democrats we are all on one ship, and that the Democratic ship will not sink. I now declare this convention permanently organized and ready for business.

The above, of course, is only a brief outline of Senator Tolbert's splendid oration, for it was an oration. He was frequently applauded during its delivery, and especially at those passages where he declared that he, for one, repudiated any charges of corruption against the Democratic State officials.

The Convention having been organized, a recess was taken until 3 o'clock, p. m. On re-assembling, Mr. Patton, of Spartanburg, moved that the first business of the Convention, after the report of the committee on credentials was received, should be the nomination of a State ticket from Governor down. This was a premature movement, and on the motion of several delegates was tabled.

Mr. Burn, of Darlington, moved that the Convention consider a platform of principles before any other business. Adopted.

Mr. McQueen, of Chesterfield, suggested that some rules be adopted for the government of the Convention. He proposed the rules of the House of Representatives, and they were adopted.

Mr. Wannamaker, of Orangeburg, moved that the Chair appoint one delegate from each county to serve as a committee on resolutions. Adopted. Mr. J. R. Earle, Jr., represented Oconee on this committee.

Mr. Tindal, of Clarendon, from the Committee on Platform, appointed by a caucus of members of the Convention, reported the following PLATFORM:

Whereas, it is the inalienable right, inherent and constitutional of citizenship, to meet in any orderly manner, to protest and discuss measures, to adopt platforms and principles and apply by expedient, champions of said principles; and whereas, experience has shown the value of agitation inside of our ranks, and we feel that we must devise some plan by which differences of opinion as to measures and men may have scope to bring about needed reforms, therefore this Convention of Democrats, assembled at Columbia, S. C., on March 27, unite in issuing the following platform of principles and measures, upon which we intend to strive for supremacy in party and State:

1. We recognize the imperative necessity of Anglo-Saxon unity in our State, and pledge ourselves to abide by the arbitrament of the Democratic party, relying upon the sense of justice and enlightened self-interest of every one of our white fellow-citizens to secure all needed reforms. We will make our issue inside the party lines, and, differing as we may, we will make a common cause against the enemies of our white race, and will submit to the behests of the party fairly expressed through the regular channels.

2. We demand the re-appointment of representation in the Democratic Convention upon the basis of the census of 1880, and that it go into effect this year. We demand that the State Nominating Convention shall be chosen by primary election on the same day that the other officers are nominated, and that all the counties shall hold their primary elections on the same day, to wit: last Tuesday in August in each election year.

3. We demand that the Board of Agriculture be abolished; that the privileges of the State, in every respect pertaining to agriculture, or mechanic, or industrial education, including the agricultural stations, be under the control of the Trustees of Clemson Agricultural College, and upon the same shall devolve all duties now performed by the present Board and Commissioners of Agriculture, except the control of the State lands.

4. We demand that the South Carolina College shall be liberally supported as a classical and literary institution.

5. We demand that the school districts be reorganized, and that the State shall be as nearly square as practicable, and an area to allow only one white and one colored free school in each district, and that the school trustees be elected instead of appointed by the State.

6. We demand rigid economy in public expenditures, the abolition of useless offices, reduction of salaries and fees of all officers, State and county, to conform to the means of the people, and the money and decreased ability of people to pay taxes; that the public officers shall be paid in proportion to their labor and responsibility.

7. We demand that the railroad commission shall be given all needed power to protect the rights and interests of the people without injuring the railroads, and that the commissioners be elected by the people at all times, and by the Democratic Convention. It is the sense of this meeting that salaried attorneys of railroads and phosphate companies should be ineligible to seats in the Legislature.

8. We demand that there shall be a survey of the State's phosphate beds, and their classification into three grades, and that a commission, composed of the Governor, Comptroller General and Attorney General, shall control and direct the mining under rigid rules, each river or phosphate district being leased at public auction for a term of years after the expiration of which the land shall revert to the State, and the royalty according to the value as shown by the survey.

9. We demand that a Constitutional Convention be called to give us an organic law framed by our own people, and adapted to our conditions and wants. We believe that we cannot obtain any great relief from our burdensome taxes till this is done, and we have lost faith in the power to amend the present Constitution so that it will answer the requirements.

10. We believe, as Thomas Jefferson, "that a diffusion of information and the exercise of all abuses at the bar of public reason" is a fundamental principle of free government, and it will give the needed relief, we demand that candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor be nominated by the people at a public meeting, and that those asking our suffrages for the General Assembly shall canvass their respective counties on these issues. We demand that the people be allowed to act intelligently and render their verdict at the primary election. We warn the people against being fore-

stalled as they were two years ago in some counties. Let no delegate to the State Convention be appointed who does not hear this joint discussion.

After some discussion, on motions to amend, the platform was adopted. Mr. Padgett, of Edgfield, offered the following:

Resolved, For the purpose of educating and arousing the masses we will proceed to suggest candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor who favor these measures, and we ask those who disagree with us to do likewise. Without excluding any candidate who may desire to enter the race, let us have a full and fair discussion and a free fight inside the party lines, and let the majority rule. It will remove its discontent, act as a school for training our public men, strengthen the party for its conflicts with radicalism, and be of untold benefit to the people of the State.

Mr. J. R. Harrison, of Greenville, then offered as a substitute the following:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Convention that no nominations be made by this body.

As was expected, here came the tug of war. A storm of discussion was precipitated by this interjection of "nominations or no nominations," and a hot debate of two hours duration ensued. Up to this time the proceedings of the convention, though marked by great confusion, were comparatively tame; but when this question was sprung, there was a girding of loins by opposing parties, and all signs betokened that there was music in the air.

Mr. Irby, of Laurens, moved that the substitute be tabled. This was defeated.

The discussion was opened by Mr. McQueen, of Chesterfield, in a speech opposed to nominations. A number of delegates made speeches pro and con, the discussion lasting at least two hours. There was a call for Mr. Tillman. He said:

"There are men here," said Capt. Tillman, "who are so narrow, so prejudiced, so pointed, that they are ready to say that I am speaking for myself. It is true that my name, without any active movement on my part, is connected with the office of Governor; it is true that I have nothing to do with the writing of the Shell address, but, as God is my judge, I had no idea of doing anything for myself. Yet it has been said that I have come out of his shell and shown his head. Now, would he like to know what is Tillmanism?"

Delegate Dargan: "If the gentleman will yield I will try to explain Tillmanism, and accredit it with being the author of the term."

Delegate Tillman yielded, and Delegate Dargan said he defined Tillmanism to be this very Convention—a departure from the general usages of the Democratic party. He went on to say that he thought Tillmanism a good thing for South Carolina if this Convention would stop right here without making nominations.

Delegate Tillman: "I want it understood that whatever else I may be I am a simpurque Edgfield Democrat. [Applause.] This Convention has just adopted a platform, every line of which was written by me. You have swallowed Tillmanism whole, unadulterated, straight. Don't ask you to swallow Tillman. I don't ask you to nominate me for Governor. All I ask is that you put up a man to represent this platform. We are not divided, and we are not going to divide," because it would be suicidal to do so. [Cries: "Go ahead, trying to change the methods of government. I inaugurated the fight five years ago, at Bennettsville, alone by myself. I took the position that the farmers were imposed upon, that they were heavily taxed, and that they should have relief. But let me come back to the present. My head and heart are so full that I cannot talk for hours and don't want to delay this Convention. [Cries: "Go ahead—there's plenty of time before us."] I want to show you that it is not to my advantage to get this nomination. Suppose I am nominated and accept the nomination, what is there ahead of me? The bitter opposition of disgruntled Democrats. Men, plenty of them, will preach from the house tops and say: 'Tillman! I'd just as soon be hanging in office all the time as I am in this nomination, I put myself solitary and alone against the combined intelligence of this King. I will have to abandon my private life and live some one to look after for me, and I will have to meet the heavy expenses of travel throughout the campaign. Yet I say to you that the reform element of South Carolina have not yet been organized. If you don't cross it now, you may as well go home and you had better never come here. If you ask me to lead this fight, you call upon me to lead a forlorn hope, but you will lead it if you have the courage to lead the brain and the nerve and ability to organize the common people against the aristocracy. Talk about a Democratic form of government. This is an aristocratic form of government, and we are here, for here Democracy means the rule of the best men of the people, and this gives rise to ringism, bossism and grafting. You have adopted a platform. What is the use of having a platform unless you put a man before the people who knows it, endorses it, has slept over it, and can explain it to the people at night for and give it life and force? I don't ask to be your leader. But if you put me there you may be sure that I'll fight for it. I have been vilified and abused by the press. Columns of abuse have been heaped upon my head. It is true that I have also said some harsh things, but then you see I don't claim to be an angel. If a man smites me on one cheek, I don't generally turn the other to him. I'm not a Edgfield Democrat, and when any one jumps on me I'm going to knock him or try."

This is, of course, only a summary of Mr. Tillman's remarks. They were not long, and they were heartily cheered at times.

Much confusion followed. During the roll call it was well ascertained that Mr. Harrison's amendment was adopted by one vote and that nominations were defeated. Mr. Irby and others induced a few delegates to change their votes, when the presiding officer announced the vote against Mr. Harrison's amendment as 120 to 114, as follows:

Counties. Yeas. Nays. Abbeville..... 8 0 Aiken..... 1 7 Anderson..... 1 7 Barnwell..... 12 0 Beaufort..... 0 2 Berkeley..... 3 9 Charleston..... 0 9 Chester..... 6 2 Chesterfield..... 6 0 Clarendon..... 3 3 Colleton..... 4 7 Darlington..... 6 0 Edgfield..... 10 10 Fairfield..... 0 2 Florence..... 1 7 Greenville..... 7 2 Laurens..... 3 0 Lancaster..... 8 8 Lexington..... 2 4 Marion..... 1 3 Marlborough..... 0 6 Newberry..... 0 6 Orange..... 12 0 Orangeburg..... 12 0 Pickens..... 0 4 Spartanburg..... 12 0 South Carolina..... 3 7 Union..... 1 4 Williamsburg..... 0 6 York..... 0 0

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Valuable Land for Sale. THE heirs of Thomas D. Morgan, deceased, desire to sell, at private sale, the land belonging to his estate, whereon are twenty acres, and adjoins lands of Jesse McMahon, contains two hundred and one acres, and lying in the fork of Cane Creek and Little River. Terms reasonable. For further particulars apply to J. M. H. S. C. T. T. Sources, S. C.

Homestead and Exemption. NOTICE is hereby given that Mrs. A. Laura J. Dadd, the widow of Geo. W. Dadd, deceased, has filed her petition before me to have the homestead in the real estate and exemption in the personal property of her late husband, the said Geo. W. Dadd, deceased, appraised, set off and exempted to her, and that I will pass on said application at my office, in Wallalla, S. C., on Saturday, the 31 day of May next, at 11 o'clock A. M.

Notice of Final Settlement. I WILL apply to His Honor Lewis, Judge of Probate, of Oconee County, on the 27th day of April, 1890, for leave to make final settlement of the separate estates of Lillie Andrews, deceased, and of James F. Andrews, deceased, as administrator of said estates. H. A. H. GIBSON, Administrator, Estate of Lillie Andrews, deceased, and of James F. Andrews, deceased.

Nothing Succeeds Like Success. THE reason RADAM'S MICROBE KILLER is the most wonderful medicine, is because it has never failed in any instance, no matter what the disease, from EFFROSY to the most simple disease known to the human system. The scientific men of to-day claim and prove that every disease is Caused by Microbes, —AND— Radam's Microbe Killer Exterminates the Microbes and drives them out of the system, and when that is done you cannot have an ache or pain. No matter what the disease, whether a simple case of Malaria Fever or a combination of diseases, we cure them all at the same time, as we treat all diseases constitutionally.

Beware of Fraudulent Imitations! See that our Trade-Mark (so me as above) appears on each jug. Send for book "History of the Microbe Killer," given away by DABBY & CO., Druggist, Agt., Wallalla, S. C.

The Wide Awake Grocery Store. —SELLS NOTHING BUT— Fresh Goods and Fine Quality. GOODS arriving fresh every week. A chance for every one to enjoy a perfect cup of Coffee—the Momaia Coffee. Those who have not used the Momaia Coffee should try it.

Wailard's Breakfast Cocoa. The most delicious Cocoa in use. Fresh Rice, Sugars, Teas and the most beautiful line of Canned Goods in town. Also, Potatoes and many other things too numerous to mention.

A recess was then taken for a few hours. When the convention re-convened at 8:30, Mr. J. L. M. Irby, of Laurens, in an eloquent and impassioned address, placed in nomination B. R. Tillman, of Edgfield. The speaker's address was constantly interrupted by the most deafening applause. Mr. Padgett, of Edgfield, seconded Capt. Tillman's nomination, and paid a glowing tribute to the gentleman from Edgfield. Mr. Hugh Farley also seconded the nomination in a brief but appropriate speech.

Capt. Tillman was then nominated by acclamation. Col. J. C. Coit, of Chesterfield, was then nominated by Mr. Green, of Marlboro, and selected by acclamation as nominee for Lieutenant Governor.

Upon motion, Messrs. Jones, of Laurens, Marchant, of Aiken, and Padgett, of Edgfield, were appointed a committee to wait on Capt. Tillman and inform him of his nomination. Capt. Tillman was escorted to the platform and said:

"Fellow-citizens: The French have a proverb that it is the unexpected that happens, and I can assure you that while my name has been mentioned during the past few years, I never expected to occupy this position, because in my zeal I have said so many hard things of so many prominent men. I am surprised that I am the nominee of the caucus, as this is a convention only by courtesy.

Capt. Tillman then went on to explain that while the convention had paid him a great compliment, it had also put a crown of thorns upon his forehead. He asked that those who had opposed him leave off their bitterness, and he promised that if a leopard could change his spots, he would endeavor hereafter to be more conservative in his utterances. He called attention to the fact that his name would, if he were elected, be more closely scrutinized than those of any ordinary Governor.

Capt. Tillman closed by promising to try to do so, and if nominated and elected Governor that the convention would never have occasion to be ashamed of what it had done.

Capt. W. J. Neville, of Oconee, was too unwell to be present much of the time during the session of the convention. A campaign committee was appointed. Dr. Johns, of Oconee, is named as a member of this committee.

We are indebted to the News and Courier for this report of the proceedings of the convention.

Be sure to come and see our line of Stoves and Tinware at prices cheaper than ever. T. N. Carter & Co.

New Advertisements.

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Brown and White Leghorns, non-sexual, everlasting layers, 15 eggs, only 75 cents; 30 for \$1.00; 75 for \$2.00. Wyandottes, a combination fowl, beautiful plumage, largest meat producers, excellent layers, best of mothers, clean legs. Setting of eggs only \$1.00; 30 for \$1.50.

Plymouth Rocks, the old reliables, 15 eggs, \$1.00; 30 only \$1.50. Asiatics, large beautiful fowls, unequalled as mothers and best fowls to cross on common barnyard stock. Light Brahmas, Partridge and Buff Cochins, many other birds, 15 eggs for \$1.00; 30 for \$1.50.

Ducks, Royal Pekin and Musky Duck eggs, setting of 12 for \$1.00. Turkeys, Blue Darters, Blue Herons, Arkansas Travelers, Black Birds, Warhorse, Duck Wings, Black Breasted, Red Games, 15 eggs for 75 cents; 30 for \$1.00. Dead game stock.

Turkeys—White Holland and Manx-footed, large meat producers. Setting of 10 only \$1.00; 20 for \$1.50. Mixed settings of different kinds of eggs, if desired, at prices named.

Eggs carefully packed in good baskets and delivered by express office. All remittances must be by Express, Money Order, or Registered Letter, or Check on Bank. Satisfaction guaranteed. Address, JOHN R. GIBSON, S. C. Wallalla, S. C. 13-cw2m

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