

STATE CAMPAIGN OPENS IN CITY OF SPARTANBURG (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Robertson, et al., would not have wanted a better opportunity in the days of good stealing," he said. "I am not making any accusation, but he was very indiscreet, to say the least."

People Are Thinking. The meeting today does not evidence a lack of interest; it emphasizes that the people are thinking; that they have determined to take a more intimate part in a government which is theirs, and which they fight for when the occasion demands. For, as was stated in the beginning, while the meeting was in progress, South Carolina boys, on the streets of Spartanburg and other towns in South Carolina were on their way to the Mexican border.

Ex-Governor Blease Reviews Governor Manning's Record

His Record as Governor and Legislator—Blease Gives His Platform—Favors Decrease of Present Day Lawlessness.

On the 11th day of April, 1914, I delivered a speech in the town of Walterboro, in which I said: "Those of you who believe in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people should vote only for a man who will carry out the principles and policies which the majority of the people of this State endorsed by re-electing me in 1912. This is no small matter, because all of my friends will be kicked out of office if the opposition wins. They will treat you just exactly as if you were Republicans, or as if you belonged to some other party. Mark the prediction. If an anti-Blease man is elected governor of South Carolina, every Blease office-holder in the State, whether he be high official or low, whether he hold a salaried position or an honorary position, as soon as the time comes he will be dismissed and one of the other faction placed in his stead."

That speech was addressed to the Democratic voters of South Carolina, and now, two years and two months after its delivery, I ask you, what of the prediction? Your answer is, and can only be, that it has come true to the letter, and that every man known as a Reformer—or, as some call them, a "Bleaseite"—has either lost his position by expiration, or by being kicked out by the present governor, just as I predicted in that speech more than two years ago. To this and the proof of it I shall refer at various times during this campaign.

Now, my fellow citizens—and when I say fellow citizens I am addressing all of the people of my State—I am a candidate for governor. I want the support and I want the vote of every white man in the State of South Carolina who believes in equal rights to all and special privileges to none; who believes in an honest administration of all laws fairly and impartially to all citizens alike; who believes in enforcing all laws upon all subjects, and obedience to the constitution of the United States and the constitution of South Carolina, and who believes in giving to the laboring people of this country the same rights as are given to the wealthy, and who believes in dealing with the corporations fairly and justly, but in making them know their places and in keeping them from encroaching upon the rights of the people, or in any manner or form oppressing them. And I promise you that if elected governor that I will be the governor of all the people of my State, regardless of any past differences, and shall perform the duties of that office fairly and squarely with equal regard to the rights of all alike. I believe, from the experience which the people have had with me in the legislature of their State and in the governor's office, that they will believe and that they do believe that I will do what I say I will do, and will not do what I say I will not do.

I said, in a message to the general assembly, on the 15th day of January, 1912, in speaking of the mill merger in this State, that this merger would prove very injurious to the people of the State as a whole, and that it was safer for the authorities to take charge of the matter at that time than it would be to wait until like the Standard Oil Case, the people would have to appeal to their supreme court to relieve them from the burdens which would be brought upon them. Today law suits are in progress before the court in Pickens, whereby people are trying to save themselves from the very injury which I warned them of, and they are appealing to the very court that I said they would ultimately go to, and, as is shown there, this merger has cost the stockholders of those mills the loss of four million five hundred thousand dollars. That prediction, my fellow citizens, was made more than four years ago, when I was asking your general assembly to direct your attorney general to take some action to save the people harmless in this matter. I do not claim to be a prophet. I mention this to call your attention to the fact that I was studying the questions that were before the people of my State.

One other matter, if you please. At the special session of the general assembly of 1914, a bill was passed authorizing the issuing of twenty-four million dollars in five per cent. coupon bonds, payable semi-annually for a term of twenty years. I knew if I vetoed that bill that the legislature would pass it overwhelmingly over my veto, as they were bitterly opposed to me, and had been on all occasions doing whatever they could to over-ride my vetoes. For that reason I held this bill until it was too late for it possibly to become a law, and stated that it was useless, that the

conditions did not warrant it, that the financial situation would work itself out and adjust itself. What, gentlemen, has been the result? Just as I said, the situation was relieved; conditions were improved; the people got along without this enormous amount of money; and if it had not been for my standing between you, the tax payers of this State, and that legislature, you would today have saddled upon you a twenty-four million dollar debt, and would be paying interest on it at the rate of five per cent., when you can now borrow all the money you want at half that rate of interest. Without desiring to appear egotistical, I ask you tax payers, what think you of my action in your behalf in this matter?

Possibly you will be more interested in knowing what I stand for now, and I shall therefore proceed to tell you:

- 1. The warehouse system, which was enacted into law while I was governor, which was recommended by me in my message, and which was approved by me as soon as it was presented.
2. Biennial sessions of your general assembly, which would be a saving of thousands of dollars to our people.
3. The making of six per cent. the legal rate of interest in South Carolina.
4. The establishment of a rural credit system for the State.
5. The abolition of all useless offices.
6. The reduction of taxation.
7. Amending the constitution by striking out that section which provides for the payment of \$2,000 to the family of a negro who commits rape on a white woman, and providing that in such cases a jury may be drawn immediately and a special court held within such time as the governor may direct.
8. Liberal support for the State institutions for the education of our boys and girls.
9. Building up the free school system so that every white child in South Carolina may be given an education.
10. Laws that will favor and protect labor in all of its legitimate purposes, and such laws as will protect capital in its lawful investments; so that capital and labor, each necessary to the other, may work in harmony for the material advancement of all our people.
11. A law that no officer elected by the people shall be removed from office unless convicted by a jury.
12. The decrease of present day lawlessness.
13. Local option by counties for the control of the whiskey traffic.
14. Confederate veterans. There are few real, genuine Confederate veterans living. If you will remember when the war closed, and place the age of a man coming out even as low as eighteen years, you will see that, to have been in that war from its beginning, he is a very old man, and even if he was engaged in only the last of it, he is an old man. Now, I favor getting the true records and giving to the bona fide Confederate soldier a sufficient amount of money to make him comfortable during the balance of his life. If you will remove the stragglers from the camp and give the money only to the true soldier, we can make them at least comfortable, and the balance of their days pleasant, and it will be no hardship upon the tax payers, and no taxpayer in South Carolina would object to the amount borne by him for carrying out this most honorable and worthy purpose.

These matters and others I shall discuss in detail at the various campaign meetings, for, as everybody knows, it would be an absolute impossibility to take them all up and discuss them at any one meeting.

Upon this platform, and upon my record as legislator and as governor and as a private citizen of my State, I ask the support and the assistance of the Democrats of South Carolina.

I shall have nothing to say against the personal or private record of any candidate in this campaign, unless he first attacks me, in which event I shall defend myself and spare nothing in reply. Public records are public property and are always open, and it is legitimate to criticize them in such terms as we may see fit. Therefore, I invite the freest and fullest discussion of my record as a legislator, as senator and as governor, and in any other capacity that I have ever served, and have no objection to the truth being told as to my private or personal life. I, therefore, call your attention to the following record, as made in the house

and senate, and in the governor's office, by Richard I. Manning.

Manning voted in 1902, as senator, when a bill was introduced to prohibit trusts, against the bill and for the trusts. See Senate Journal, 1902, pages 462 and 472.

At the same session, (1902), when the railroad relief bill for employees was offered, he voted to kill the bill and against the interests of the employees. See Senate Journal, 1902, pages 262, 276 and 504. By voting to kill this bill he voted to prevent the family of the railroad employee who was killed by negligence of the railroad, or its servants, from recovering any damages from the railroad corporation.

At the same session, when the senate was endeavoring to repeal the charter of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical company, a trust throttling, or attempting to throttle, the farmers of South Carolina, and which Attorney General Bellinger and his assistants were fighting with all their power, Mr. Manning voted against the bill to suspend this corporation and against the interests of the farmers and laboring people. See Journal, 1902, page 360.

In the session of 1900, Journal, page 206, you will see where Mr. Manning voted against the child labor bill and against the interest of the cotton mill employees.

In 1906, Senate Journal, page 216, as senator, he voted against the bill to prevent strikes and lockouts, which was introduced to meet emergencies and to help the cotton mill employees, thus voting against the laboring man and in favor of the corporation. If this bill had been passed and allowed to become a law, the many strikes which have occurred, under his administration, in the cotton mills could not have taken place, and labor and capital would have been working together in harmony, and the lives which have been lost on account of the riots caused by these strikes, would have been saved. Hence, to himself and his colleagues in the senate, can he lay the blame for the strike which have taken place during his administration.

He also voted against the bill for ten hours in cotton mills—see House Journal, 1892, page 358. When this bill, to limit the hours of labor in cotton mills, was up for discussion, Mr. Blease moved to strike out all after "South Carolina," in Section 1, which was—"Provided, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent any of the employees in the aforesaid manufacturing establishments from engaging to work or working such time in addition, not to exceed one hundred and ten (110) hours per annum, as may be necessary, to make up for lost time." Mr. Manning voted to leave that proviso in the bill, which, as every cotton mill man in the State knows, nullified the law, for this section was used to impose upon labor and to force them to work just about as many hours per week as they had worked heretofore.

You will find that in the session of 1892, House Journal, page 186; also in the Senate Journal of 1900, page 365, he voted against separate coaches for the two races, thus voting for white ladies to be thrown in the same coaches with negro men.

It will thus be seen that this man, who was the president of a bank in Sumter, and a director in many other large corporations in this State, on every occasion, as senator and representative, voted against the interests of the laboring man and for the corporations, and he is today the candidate of corporations and their officers and attorneys.

In addition to this, he was in the Sheppard convention, which met in March, 1892, as a delegate from Sumter county, which convention denounced Ben Tillman's administration in these words: "We pledge ourselves to the most rigid economy in the administration of the government, made more than necessary by the misfortunes of the people and the impending deficiency in our treasury, resulting from the unwise management of the present administration." At another place, in speaking of B. R. Tillman, their platform said: "We submit that the course of the head of our present administration, both before and since his election, has been unwise and unjust." And this platform goes on—it is too long for me to quote it all to you—in denouncing Tillman and the reform movement in no uncertain language.

Now, Mr. Manning claims to be a friend of the farmer and the laboring people. If so, why was he in this convention denouncing Tillman and the farmers' movement in such terms as I have quoted to you, and as can easily be verified by the records? And, he continues this denunciation of the farmers and their movement as will be evidenced by the following communication addressed to him after he had said in a public speech that "These secret organizations never did the farmers any good, but were used for the political preferment of some man or set of men."

"Gov. R. I. Manning, Columbia, S. C. My Dear Sir: The members of the Farmers' Secret association consider themselves honorable and patriotic men and with sober and serious minds, have organized and are organizing for purposes which they deem commendable. What these purposes are and by what means and methods they are to be accomplished none but the members of this order have any knowledge.

The right to assemble and discuss measures either in public or private is regarded by English speaking people as a fundamental principle of liberty. It is to be regretted that the governor of a great State has seen fit to use the influence of his high office, as you did in Leesville, to belittle and disrupt a body of farmers who are organizing for purposes which the mature judgment de-

clares to be wise and who are certainly acting within their constitutional rights.

Respectfully, W. A. Stuckey, Z. Z. Barfield, Newton Kelley, Committee."

He further showed his friendship for the farmer when a committee from the South Carolina State Farmers' Union called upon him in January, 1915—said committee being composed of Wade Stackhouse, W. A. Stuckey, J. H. Claffy, and Silas Mimms—in connection with the cotton acreage reduction act. Resolutions had been passed by the South Carolina Farmers' Union urging the legislature not to repeal the cotton acreage reduction act. Mr. Manning, on January 31st, 1915, announced, I will sign the bill repealing cotton acreage reduction."

Mr. Manning, when he was senator from Sumter county in 1902, voted to compel all parents or guardians to send their children or wards to school, a bill known as the compulsory education bill. Mr. Brice, the senator from York, moved to kill the bill. Mr. Manning voted "No," thus voting for compulsory education. Now he says he favors local option for compulsory education because the people as a whole are not ready for compulsory education. Yet fourteen years ago, when they were very much less ready then than are now, he did not vote for local option compulsory education, nor did he vote to leave it to the people whether they wanted it or not, but he voted to force it on them. In speaking of this subject, Representative Harper is reported by The Columbia State, February 12th, 1915, as having said, "Governor Manning had drawn Section 9 of the bill containing the local option provisions." Another artful change in this corporation candidate's political life.

When Mr. Manning was a member of the house of representatives in 1893, a bill was introduced to change the legal rate of interest in this State by reducing it, which was a bill in favor of the money borrower, the poor man. When a motion was made to kill the bill, Mr. Manning voted to kill it, and against reducing the rate of interest which the banks were receiving from the poor man. Thus again he shows his interest in behalf of the corporations—he being a corporation director and a corporation president—by refusing to vote to reduce the rate of interest, which would have been of great assistance to the poor people—those who borrow money. This will be found on page 334 of the House Journal of 1893.

Another place where Mr. Manning voted directly for the interests of the corporations, and against the people, will be found on page 486, House Journal of 1892, when he voted to kill a bill which was to provide for the forfeiture of the charter of any corporation created under the laws of this State, whenever such corporation shall refuse to pay the taxes as assessed and levied upon the property of such corporation for State and county purposes. On a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill, there were twenty-two (22) votes in favor of the motion—one of them being cast by Mr. R. I. Manning. There were eighty-four (84) votes against the motion—one of them being cast by Cole L. Blease. Thus, it will be seen again where Mr. Manning came to the service of the corporation interests, as he is serving them yet.

Time will not here permit me to go further into this man's record as governor, but I shall, at future meetings, discuss his action in turning out of office every man who he knew was not a political follower of his that he had the power to remove, and his attempted removal of Sheriff Huckabee of Kershaw county because he knew he was a 'Bleaseite,' as he saw fit to call him. And, I shall further show his refusal to commission men to office because they were not political friends of his. I shall also show the extravagance of his office by the creation of many useless offices, all of which have been filled by him with his political friends—most of them appointment of himself and some few by election. By the raising of the tax levy; by the increase of tax assessments; by the useless and wasteful expenditures of the people's money. His pardoning and commuting of the sentences of the very worst type of criminals, and above all the non-prosecution of the man who was cashier of the bank under him, when he came up thousands of dollars short in his accounts. I cannot, in this short space, but mention only a few of the things, but as I proceed on the campaign I shall fully discuss other matters which the people of the State have not been informed about, because the newspapers have refused, or failed to publish these matters when they took place, or not commenting on them in such manner that the people might have their attention called to them.

I repeat, gentlemen, that I do not wish to get personal in this matter; I am only speaking of records, and shall only speak of the political acts and doings of this man. For instance, his commuting to life imprisonment the sentence of a negro brute who, in Laurens county, murdered a Confederate veteran who was sleeping out in a little shack near a spring on his farm; robbed his body, and then burned both the shack and the body of the old Confederate soldier to ashes, in order to hide this crime; and, after his commutation of sentence, he led three other prisoners, took a Winchester rifle and pistol from a guard, and made good their escape. I refer to the murder of Colonel George Young of Laurens.

Another instance—where a young white man, in Newberry county, who was sitting with his wife and mother, when a negro slipped up to the win-

dow and shot him down like a wild beast. This negro, after a free and fair trial, was sentenced to be electrocuted. I positively refused to take any action in the case, but when this man comes into the office of governor he commuted this negro murderer's sentence to life imprisonment. I refer to the case of Mr. Spurgeon Johnson of Newberry county.

And, then, in another case—one of incest, one of the most horrible of crimes—a case which even I, while governor, turned down and refused to have anything at all to do with—this man gives him a free, a full and an unconditional pardon.

Why, gentlemen, it is nauseating to go further—I will leave the balance for some other occasion.

We have heard a great deal about law and order, and law enforcement, within the past seventeen months, but if the records are looked into it will be found that there has been more lawlessness in the State of South Carolina since Richard I. Manning has been in the governor's chair than has ever been known in the history of the State within the same length of time, and more than there was during the entire four years of the Blease administration. As proof, I call your attention to the Charleston riot, one dead and several injured, and fourteen true bills returned by the grand jury for lawlessness on that occasion, and which riot cost the tax payers eleven thousand dollars to pay the militia to stand guard with bayonets over a white man's property; the Anderson riot at Brogson's mill; the Pageland riot, where one man was killed and five wounded and three others were expected to die from seriousness of their wounds; the Greenville riot, where one man was killed and others injured; the Hampton riot, where two men were killed and four or five others seriously wounded; the Mullins riot, where two men were killed; the Olanta riot, where one man was killed and three seriously wounded; the riot near the North Carolina line, above Bennettsville, where one man was killed; the Columbia street car riot, where some were injured, but luckily nobody was killed; and last, but by no means least of these, the Winnsboro riot, where the sheriff of the county and his deputy were killed; where Mr. Clyde Isenhower, the brave and daring young farmer, who was standing there as the defender of the virtue of his wife and of the womanhood of his State, was murdered like a dog, and the negro brute who had committed the crime met a speedy death.

and in addition, several others received wounds. As further proof of this lawlessness, I call your attention particularly to the fact that seven white women have been criminally assaulted by negroes, and two white women by white men, during his administration, and that sixteen white men have been killed or seriously injured as the result of wounds received at the hands of negroes. And as further proof I call your attention to the several strikes and clashes which have taken place between capital and labor; the extra terms of court that have been called in the State for the purpose of trying criminals in order to relieve the congestion of the dockets, and two extra terms for the trying of negroes who had ravished white women, to prevent lynching. And the reports of the solicitors will show that there have been more criminal cases tried under this administration than under any other. Why, in the city of Columbia alone, the solicitor at the last summer term had ninety cases, and at this summer term seventy-five—the heaviest dockets ever known in the circuit.

I cannot think of taking up all these various things and calling them to your attention. Time would never permit. But in addition to these things I specially call your attention to the many, many convictions of blind tigers throughout the State, and especially the recent convictions in the city of Sumter, the city of Charleston, and the city of Columbia, right where the newspapers have been saying to the people of the State that prohibition was being enforced and that no blind tigers were in existence.

This entire cry of law enforcement and law and order, my friends, is but the 15-cent cotton cry of 1914, and is being used in the same manner, to attempt to draw your minds away from the main issues of this campaign, and to deceive you, as many of you were deceived then in the casting of your ballots for those who were not in sympathy with you and your cause.

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