The Laurens Advertiser.

VOL. XI. LAURENS, S. C., TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1896. NO. 37

State Dem. Ex. Com.

NO DECIDED ACTION IS TAKEN.

Chairman Irby Stands Square Against Bolting—The May Convention Must Decide the Question.

Columbia Register.

It has been shifted from the State Democratic Executive Committee to the State Democratic Convention.

That, in two short paragraphs, was the action of the executive committee last night.

Those who watched the proceedings carefully believe that a majority of the committee are opposed to a bolt, but that some of that majority were opposed to a fight on the issue at this time and so forced a stand-off.

Many of the committeemen were in town all yesterday morning and innumerable caucuses and consultations were held. The committee met shortly after 8 p. m. in the Senate chamber.

The following were present at the meeting: J. Y. Jones, Abbeville; W. M. Jordan, Aiken; J. P. Glenn, Anderson; S. G. Mayfield, Barnwell; Thomas Martin, Beaufort; R. H. Sweeney, Berkeley; P. H. Gadsden, Charleston; T. J. Cunningham, Chester; G. J. Redfearn, Chesterfield; D. J. Brabham, Clarendon; J. N. Parrott, Darlington; R. B. Watson, Edgefield; Thomas W. Traylor, Fairfield; R. M. McCown, Florence; J. W. Gray, Greenville; J. P. Derham, Horry; M. B. McSweeney, Hampton; J. C. Elliott, Lancaster; J. L. M. Irby, Laurens; C. M. Efird, Lexington; J. D. Montgomery, Marion; W. D. Evans, Marlboro; J. A. Sligh, Newberry; J. R. Earle, Oconee; O. R. Lowman, Orangeburg; T. C. Robinson, Pickens; Willie Jones, Richland; D. L. Bennett, Spartanburg; D. E. Keels, Sumter; A. C. Lyles, Union; J. H. Jackson, York. Colleton, Georgetown and Kershaw were unrepresented. T. J. Kirkland, the member from Kershaw, telegraphed that circumstances over which he had no control prevented his attendance, but that he and his county were going to stand by the national Democracy. M. L. Donaldson of Greenville, S. C., member of the National Democratic Executive Committee, was present and sat with the committee. Mr. Tompkins, the secretary of the committee, and Major U. R. Brooks, who was assisting the treasurer, were also present.

Chairman Irby explained how under the party constitution it was necessary for the State Democratic Executive Committee to meet. He showed that there was a conflict in the constitution, parts looking to holding club meetings on the first Monday in May and other parts looking to the holding of the County Democratic Conventions on that day. He thought the committee ought to decide this question by providing for the holding of club meetings on the first Monday in May and county conventions on the second Monday, while the State convention, under the constitution, meets on the third Wednesday.

Then he touched upon the vital issue of the day. He said the Democracy of the committee had been questioned since 1890, but it was the only Democratic committee in the State and the legal successors of the committee which rescued the State in 1876. He said the committee were either here as Democrats, or as bolters and traitors. On other occasions, such remarks would not be necessary, but the threats of a split and bolt made it necessary to meet the issue fairly and squarely. He would speak out. The committee had come into possession of the machinery under a written pledge to the people that they were Democrats. If they were not Democrats, if they wanted to desert, let them do so boldly and openly and straightforwardly. How had desertion been threatened? The Conservatives had tried independentism and bolting and been beaten. But now a greater danger threatened. The Democracy is threatened by a distinguished Democrat, who has been one of the greatest leaders in the State since the war. He had said that if this State did not get what he wanted in the national convention, he eighteen representatives would say to the four hundred and odd other members that they would not submit to majority rule. He denounced this position and said there was only one honorable way to do, to go to Chicago and submit to the will of the majority, whether that will coincide with the wishes of the South Carolina Democracy or not.

D. H. Tompkins, the secretary of the committee, then called the roll. Several substitutes presented their credentials.

In came a fight to exclude the public from the meeting.

Mr. Evans said in view of the issues raised by the chairman's address, the committee ought to meet in executive session. He moved that this be done.

Mr. Bradham seconded the motion.

Mr. Gadsden opposed the motion, for all Democrats were vitally interested and should be given full opportunity to know how their representatives met the enemy. He thought it better that the people get the doings of the committee straight than some garbled account furnished after it adjourned by some member.

This resulted in favor of an executive session, as follows:

Yeas—J. Y. Jones, Jordan, Glenn, May, Sweeney, Redfearn, Bradham, Watson, Traylor, McCown, McSweeney, Derham, Elliott, Efird, Evans, Montgomery, Sligh, Earle, Lowman, Bennett, Lyles, Blackwell, Donald, Jackson—24.

Nays—Martin, Gadsden, Cunningham, Parrott, Gray, Irby, Willie Jones, Keels—8.

After the hall was vacated by the spectators, Messrs. McSweeney and Gray made a fight to have the newspapers allowed to remain in the meeting. Messrs. Evans and Lowman made speeches in opposition, and the newspaper men were kept out.

After reporters were excluded, Mr. Sligh introduced the following resolution:

Whereas since this executive committee is acting under authority delegated by the Democratic party of South Carolina, and therefore possesses no other powers; be it

Resolved, That in the opinion of this executive committee that it would be a transcending its powers to undertake to decide such questions which belong appropriately to the Democratic State Convention.

That furthermore the opinion of this committee that it is unwise even to discuss all such issues and questions, as it would be an effort to forestall action of the sovereignty of the party.

And furthermore that the only duty this executive committee can properly perform is to direct the reorganization of the Democratic clubs and the holding of county conventions and that of the State convention.

Mr. Sligh made a long speech claiming the committee had no authority to do anything. He spoke at great length, but stuck to that one point.

General Gray, of Greenville, offered the following resolution as a substitute:

Whereas an issue has been raised questioning the loyalty of the Democracy of South Carolina to the national Democratic party, and whereas a suggestion has been made that the delegates to the National Democratic Convention from this State should bolt the National Democratic Convention on certain contingencies; and whereas the State Executive Committee considers that it would be suicidal on the part of the Democracy of South Carolina to sever its connection with the national Democracy; now, therefore, be it resolved that it is the sense of this committee that no person shall be eligible to membership in the Democratic clubs who is not a qualified voter at the primaries of the party as provided by the constitution of the party and will not pledge himself to support the nominees of the State and national Democracy.

General Gray commenced by showing the fallacy of the premises assumed by Mr. Sligh. He said an issue had been made by the letter of Senator Tillman to Mr. Reid. The chairman of this committee had wisely and patriotically called the committee together to consider the issue raised by Mr. Tillman. The committee could well afford to ignore the issue made by private parties, but having been made by a public official, one of the acknowledged leaders, if not the most influential, of the Democratic party in this State. The eyes of the Democracy all over the United States are watching the action of this committee, who are the trustees and guardians of the Democratic party in this State and as such it became necessary for them to act in such a manner as to confirm in the minds of all men our loyalty to the Democratic party. If a bolt was threatened, the Conservatives would organize what would be the true Democratic organization of the State and the delegates sent by them would be seated by the national convention.

Capt. Blackwell, who was a substitute for Senator Williams, of Williamsburg, made a short speech saying that the people wouldn't vote for any goldbugs.

Senator Irby then took the floor and made one of the greatest speeches of his life. He talked clearly and vigorously and defined Democratic duty so plainly that no one could mistake it. He said:

I deny that the member from Newberry is correct in his assertion that we have no duties or powers. We are the guardians or trustees of the whole Democracy of the State; we are the doorkeepers of the Democratic party. The constitution requires a password; the people expect that password to be given before any man, white or black, shall enter the conferences, councils or organization of the party. We might as well meet the issue face to face. It is a plain one. It is not between the Democracy and its old enemy, the Republican party, but between the Democracy and Populism. We must either be Democrats or deserters—not bolters, because nothing has been done to justify a bolt. We should see that no man shall participate in the selection of delegates from the clubs who is not a simon-pure, genuine Democrat. Are you men the representatives of the party that stood by the people since '76, from political cowardice going to allow Populists to shape the policy and name the nominees of the party? I admit that the outlook for success is not promising, but are we going to throw down our guns and refuse to fight for our principles? What would the people have thought of you old soldiers after the battle of Gettysburg had you cried out: "We can't win the cause of the Confederacy and won't fight any more!" You would have been deserters, and you are deserters now to the Democratic party if you refuse to defend her against her enemies within and without the party—Populists, Republicans or Third Partyites. We may not win, but if we lose, I shall go down with the colors of this State in my hand. If you refuse to do your duty and bind our voters to abide the result and divide the white people of the State, you alone must be responsible. I have warned you, whether you heed it or not. Inaction means destruction to the organization of the State. If we refuse to discipline and organize as the people expect us, the Conservatives will organize on what they deem Democratic lines. In '92, when you hoped to control the May convention and the primaries and to prevent the Conservatives from bolting, this executive committee, many of whom are now members, passed the following rule:

"The applicant for membership, or voter, shall be twenty-one years of age and be a white Democrat, or a negro who voted for General Hampton in '76. Every member of a subordinate club or voter in a Democratic primary shall pledge himself to abide the result of the primary and support the nominees of the party."

You were not satisfied with this iron-clad pledge. You didn't believe that the Conservatives would tell the truth. You were willing to further humiliate the white elector, Conservative and Reformer. You were very careful to guard the door against mongrels. You imposed an oath and required all to swallow it, to wit:

"I do solemnly swear that I am duly qualified to vote at this election according to the rules of the Democratic party, and that I have not voted before at this election."

Many Conservatives, over 30,000, swallowed this oath and stood by it, but now, when you are asked to bind the participants in club meetings to take a simple pledge not to bolt, many of you object. It is not fair, it is not honest, it is not honorable, to deal in this way in politics, and we ought to send our representatives to Chicago upon equal terms with others. Can this State's Democracy ever forget the Democrats of the North when we had a dual government and were fighting to throw off the negroes' yoke, that the Northern Democrats came to our relief and stood by us like brothers? Do you suppose the people of this State or the South can ever forget the Senators of the West and North who fought day and night without intermission to protect the South against the passage of a force bill? No, sirs, when you expect a Carolinian to bolt, you are wrong; we are Democrats by inheritance; the principles are undying and will live as long as we have a government of the people, and whether you protect them against the invasion of the Populists and anarchists, or not, they will still be Democrats. If this division must come among the white people, you alone will be responsible for it. Mr. Koester, of The Register, a close observer, has estimated the number of negroes who will register at seventy-five or eighty thousand. We cannot maintain white supremacy in this State with a division among the people, and that division will come if we subject ourselves to the charge of political cowardice by refusing to exact pledges, not oaths, of every man who participates in our club meetings. I have no idea that you will not take this position of requiring the voters to abide the result and stand by the nominees. I have been in politics too long not to know what has been going on here in the last twenty-four hours. Any one can guess what the programme is: Dodge this issue, ignore this great crisis, so vital to the very existence of the Democracy of the State; come here in State convention; send delegates to Chicago; bolt the national convention and make our State and its Democracy the laughing stock of this great nation. Why not meet the issue squarely and say whether you are in favor of a bolt or no bolt? The very idea of eighteen men undertaking to dictate the platform and nominees of the greatest and grandest party on earth in a convention composed of between eight hundred and nine hundred men. What is the use of the other States going there at all? Why not save time and expense by letting South Carolina name the nominee and make his platform? If South Carolina can claim the right to go there and do as she pleases, why not all the other States come with just such a fool proposition? If all of them could come with any such proposition as that, what is the use to have any national convention at all? The truth is, it is silly, it is ridiculous, it is unmanly, it is untrue to the Democracy of this State. The people are opposed to being put in any such attitude. It excites ridicule, contempt and scorn from the outside world. It is unfortunate that we should have ever been in any such a predicament.

Mr. Sligh asked Senator Irby if the State convention elected him a delegate, and instructed him, if certain things were not granted in the platform, would he bolt. Senator Irby, raising his right hand, said in a most emphatic manner: "Before God and man, I would not. I would not accept office upon any such terms."

Mr. Donaldson made quite an able speech, cool and unimpassioned, saying he was the connecting link between the State and national Democracy. "We cannot," said he, "do otherwise than stand by the national Democracy. Chairman Irby's call was proper and he would have been recreant to his trust if he had remained silent under the circumstances." Mr. Donaldson counselled unity and harmony among all the Democrats. All want free silver, but cannot renounce allegiance to the party of our fathers.

Mr. Gadsden of Charleston made a good speech. He was the only Conservative in the committee, but did not speak for the Conservatives of the State, but his people in Charleston. The Conservatives were not going out of the party, but if the Reformerms did, would reorganize the party. The white people had been divided for four years, but the constitutional convention had brought them nearer together and given hope that they would be again united. Mr. Sligh had said it was unwise to discuss the issue and then he took an hour to justify a bolt.

Mr. Bradham said the people of his county would do as they pleased and would not be dictated to.

Mr. Efird charged Senator Irby with attempting to dictate, and Senator Irby in a very positive manner denied any effort as chairman or otherwise to dictate to the committee. "So help me God," said he, "I am working for the best interests of the whole people of the State."

Mr. Efird said he did not mean dictation in an unfriendly or disrespectful sense. "You charged us," said he, "with having been fixed by outside influences. I hope this is satisfactory to you."

Senator Irby nodded assent.

Senator Mayfield said he would not receive instructions from the Senator from Edgefield or the Senator from Laurens. He had a high respect for both, but preferred to get instructions from his own people. He said send delegates to Chicago instructed to vote for silver first, last and all the time, but never bolt. He said it was useless for the committee to discuss the matter as there was no proposition to bolt.

Senator Efird introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That each county chairman be requested to call a meeting of each Democratic club in his county to be held on the second day of May, 1896, for the purpose of organizing the clubs for the ensuing election; of electing one executive committeemen to represent the club in the county executive committee for the ensuing two years; of electing one representative for each twenty-five names or majority fraction thereof on the club roll at the first last preceding primary election to represent the club at the county convention to be held at the county seat on the first Monday in May; and he is further requested to call a meeting of the Democratic county convention to be held at the county seat on the first Monday in May, 1896, at 11 a. m. for the purpose of electing a county executive committee and a State executive committeeman for the next ensuing two years; and of electing the number of representatives to which his county is entitled to represent such county in the State Democratic convention to be held at the State capital on the third Wednesday in May, 1896. That the clubs and county conventions in their actions hereunder will be governed and guided by the Constitution of the Democratic party of South Carolina, adopted in State convention, at Columbia, S. C., September 19, 1894.

He said: "If you adopt the resolution introduced by Mr. Sligh, the committee will be charged with taking sides with Senator Tillman; if you adopt General Gray's resolutions they will say you have taken sides with Senator Irby. I am opposed to both resolutions and think that the resolution introduced by myself will satisfy the people and the Democratic party." Turning to Senator Irby, he said: "I am half with you. I am opposed to a bolt. If you pass the resolutions introduced by myself, you carry out the provisions of the constitution of the party."

Mr. Sligh wanted to withdraw his resolution, but the chairman ruled he could not do so without unanimous consent.

Mr. Bradham told a joke which elicited hearty laughter, Mr. Efird's substitute resolution was adopted unanimously and the committee adjourned sine die, all its members apparently in good humor and pleased with the outcome of the meeting, which defers the fight until the May convention.

—One reason men overestimate themselves and underestimate their neighbors is that they give themselves credit for all their good desires and purposes. They know of the good they wish were done, and they take to themselves credit for wishing it. But they cannot see the desires and purposes of their neighbor; but only their deeds, and hence this credit fails. Judging themselves by their desires and others by their deeds, men think of themselves more highly and of their neighbors less highly than they ought to think.

THREE VETOES BY THE GOVERNOR.

THE MAGISTRATE'S ACT DISAPPROVED.

He Claims the Right to Remove for Cause—County Treasurers' Statements to be Published.

Columbia Register.

There were some 200 bills passed by the General Assembly at its recent session, and Governor Evans only vetoed four or five of them. One or two of them were vetoed while the Legislature was in session and three have been vetoed since its adjournment.

The most important measure of the three was that declaring the law of the State with reference to the appointment, duties and compensation of magistrates, as trial justices are called under the new constitution.

Governor Evans's objections to the magistrates' bill are two-fold. In the first place the bill denied him to remove magistrates, even for cause, and in the second place it prohibited reappointment by the Governor of magistrates whose appointment the Senate refused to confirm.

Both of the provisions which are obnoxious to the Governor were placed in the bill by the Senate. The House voted both of them down. The bill finally went to a free conference, failure to adopt whose report kills any bill which they have considered. The free conference committee agreed to the Senate amendments, and, rather than kill the bill, the House accepted the report.

Governor Evans is determined in his opposition to the curtailment of the power of the chief executive which would be accomplished by the passage of an act depriving him of the right to remove magistrates. He says that the knowledge of his possession of that power restrains magistrates and makes them attend strictly to their duties, for fear of official decapitation. In coversation with a Register reporter, he mentioned several instances where magistrates had failed to do their duty, and claimed that such men ought not to be allowed to retain their offices, but the Governor should have the power to put their official heads in his waste basket. One of the cases mentioned was that of a trial justice who was so violently opposed to the dispensary law that he would neglect to send up to the Court of General Sessions for trial cases made out against violators of that statute.

The constitution says the Governor shall have the power to appoint certain officers, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Senators contend that this confers a substantial power upon the Senate, which should be protected. The custom has been for a Governor, if the Senate rejected any of his appointments, to wait until the Senate adjourned and then reappoint the rejected appointee. Senators maintain that if this practice is to be allowed to continue, there is not a bit of use in the Senate passing on appointments, for its confirmation or rejection does not amount to a row of pins. They want the Senate's power with regard to appointments made a substantial reality.

On the other hand, the Governor claims that the constitution lodges the appointing power in his hands, and that passage of the provision preventing reappointment of an appointee rejected by the Senate really operates to transfer that power to the Senate.

It is hardly likely that the Governor will lose the power he desires to preserve, for the House will not likely consent to the passage of such a bill over his veto. The argument presented to the members of the House is very plausible and has some force. It is practically to this effect: You are entitled to some show in the matter of appointments.

The Governor is usually guided in the making of appointments by the desire of the majority of the members of the delegation from the country for which the appointment is to be made. It is frequently the case that the Representatives favor the appointment of one man, while the Senator wants another to land. The Governor takes the advice of the members of the House and appoints their man, whose appointment the Senator has rejected, Senatorial courtesy operating to have his confeeres vote against any appointment which does not suit him. When the case is put in this light, the members of the House are apt to protect what they consider their rights, even if those rights are not specified in the constitution.

If all the Senators would examine into the merits of an appointment, there would be some value in the provision requiring appointments to receive the sanction of the Senate, but if each Senator, in return for like consideration, simply votes against an appointment because it is objectionable to the Senator from the county for which it is made, then it appears that the confirmation provision, coupled with a law preventing reappointment of a rejected appointee, would undoubtedly practically take the appointing power out of the Governor's hands and put it for each county in the hands of the Senator from that county.

The effect of the veto of this bill will be to leave the old law governing trial justices of force, for the constitution expressly says that it shall remain of force until the General Assembly passes a new law regulating the duties, etc., of magistrates.

The next in importance of the bills vetoed by the Governor was that doing away with the publication of the annual reports of County Treasurers in the county papers. The contention in favor of the bill was that such publications cost the taxpayers large sums of money, for which there was no commensurate return. The Governor claims that there is value in the publication of the reports of the County Treasurers, for the taxpayers can find out from them what has been done with their money and acts as a check on the treasurers, preventing them from making overpayments or payments to themselves in the name of other parties.

The third bill vetoed was one providing for free distribution among the members of the General Assembly of copies of volume one of the South Carolina statutes, edited by Thomas Cooper. These books are on sale in the State library and the Governor thinks if any legislator wants one, he should buy it. Besides, the act appropriated no funds to pay for mailing the books and there is no fund which can be devoted to that purpose.

—President E. H. Aull, of the State Press Association, has appointed the following members to represent the Association at the meeting to be held in Spartanburg on the 15th inst. in the interests of the Cotton States' Exposition in Chicago, viz: J. E. Boggs, Pickens Sentinel; James A. Hoyt, Greenville Mountaineer; N. G. Gonzales, Columbia State; C. A. Calvo, Columbia Register; J. C. Hemphill, News and Courier; W. W. Ball, Charleston Post; H. G. Osteen, Sumter Watchman and Southron; M. B. McSweeney, Hampton Guardian; J. J. Hull, Rock Hill Herald.

THE WEBSTER REPULICANS.

They are Looking to McKinley for a Share of Public Plunder.

The Webster faction of the Republicans held a convention in Columbia on the 7th inst., which was largely attended from all parts of the State. The leaders were E. A. Webster and Thos. E. Miller, with a large following of the men, white and colored who have been conspicuous heretofore in Republican conventions. E. A. Webster, Robert Smalls, T. B. Johnston and W. D. Crum were chosen delegates to St. Louis, and the following endorsement of McKinley was made:

"Resolved. That the Republicans of South Carolina recognize in the Hon. William McKinley, of Ohio, the most distinguished champion of the Republican policy of protection and reciprocity; that we honor him as the defender of a sound system of finance and believe in him as a type of the best American citizenship in both public and private life, and that we hereby express to the delegates elected to the St. Louis convention our judgment that they should use all reasonable efforts to secure his nomination for the Presidency."

E. J. Dickerson offered the following resolutions, which were adopted without dissent:

"We congratulate the people of the State upon the increase of the facilities for the education of the youth of the State, and we avail ourselves of this opportunity of tendering our thanks to the delegates of the constitutional convention for this wise provision, calculated to promote a wise, patriotic and intelligent citizenship.

"We appreciate the noble and faithful services of the six colored delegates in promoting the establishment of the Colored Normal, Industrial, Mechanical and Agricultural College for the higher education of the negro. Appreciating the character, fitness and ability of the Hon. Thos. E. Miller, of Beaufort, we heartily approval the general sentiment of the people of the State favorable to his election as president of this college, and we hereby endorse him for the same."

Mr. Dickerson also proposed the following platform, which was unanimously adopted:

The Republican party of South Carolina through their chosen representatives, in convention duly assembled in the capital of the State, undaunted by intrigue of designing men for their destruction, congratulate their fellow Republicans everywhere upon the splendid victories achieved by the party throughout the country in State, Congressional and Senatorial elections, as well as upon the propitious signs of the times of coming victory for the Republican party in the Presidential election in November of the present year.

We reaffirm our faith in the doctrine of protection to American industries, which under wise Republican legislation more than any principle of any party has maintained the onward march of prosperity for the workingmen of our country by the reduction of prices or manufactured articles of general consumption, and by levying duties upon such imports coming into competition with the production of similar articles of American production, and prevent home labor from competition with foreign labor in its over-crowded condition of pauperism.

We stand with our party in the reiteration of its demand for both gold and silver as standard money. We believe that legislation should secure and maintain the parity of values of the two metals to the end that the purchasing and debt paying power of the American dollar, silver, gold and paper, shall be the same any and everywhere. We believe that alone can secure this result.

The right to cast a free ballot in public elections and have it fairly counted and honestly returned is of the essence of American citizenship, and any attempt to abridge that right except for the commission of crime, for which the party shall have been duly convicted, strikes at the very root of our government and saps the foundation of the highest American institution, the government founded by the people, for the people and of the people.

We appeal to the people of the State to enforce the wise and timely provisions of the new constitution to suppress lynching, and ask ministers of the Gospel and the public press to join us in a righteous crusade by teaching respect for law and order on the one hand and regard for the virtue of women on the other, while prompt and exact justice be meted out in the courts of law for all crimes, whether committed by the one or the many, in secret or openly. We contend that forcible resistance to the mob by the officers of the law, even if members of the mob must be shot down to prevent the consummation of the wicked purpose of their assembling, will go a far way towards preventing the recurrence of the scenes that have disgraced certain portions of the State, and will prove a wholesome lesson, which will generally be heeded throughout the State.

The recognition of belligerent rights to the Cubans in a war for independence from Spain is an act of justice, founded upon general humane principles, and in keeping with the lessons taught by the United States, the foremost of American governments especially since the advent of the inhuman Weyler upon the scene. We endorse the wise act of Congress in taking decisive action in the premises, an act which will force peace by shortening the struggle and minimizing the destruction of life and property.

We join the progressive spirit of the nation which prompted Congress to remove the disabilities of ex-Confederate soldiers, thus forgetting the war, and bringing in closer touch the whole of the American people, to the end of promoting more general, unselfish and genuine patriotism. North and South, East and West, for our grand and glorious country, proving the grand old party a national and not a sectional old party, that even ex-Confederate soldiers can join in defiance of the taunts and sneers of those who have outlived their usefulness but not their prejudice.

Upon this platform we are willing to be judged, willing to stand or fall, and we call upon all patriotic South Carolinians, without regard to past party affiliations, to join us in our effort to promote these ends by the election of Republican Congressmen and a Republican President and Vice President of the United States in November next. We assure all of a hearty welcome in our ranks and ample rewards for their faithful services by sharing with them the results of our achievements, and proper recognition by elevation, as their worth and character may demand, to honor and place.

—The Agricultural Society of Charleston have decided to hold a Floral Fair about the first of May.

HE STILL FAVORS BOLTING.

Tillman on the Powers of the Executive Committee—His Views on State and National Questions.

Senator Tillman made a visit to Columbia when the State executive committee was in session, and prior to its action he talked with the reporters. He was not exactly in the humor to have a stereotyped interview. He chatted on a variety of topics, jumping from one to the other. He remarked that he expected to have an easy time of it in Washington, but finds that he has more work to do than when he was in the Governor's office. The News and Courier reports him as follows:

Senator Tillman was asked what was the purpose of his visit to Columbia at this time, and he said he only wanted to consult with his friends about matters and let them understand how things stood at the other end of the line. He was not a member of the State executive committee, and would, of course, not presume to give any advice, but merely wanted to talk over matters with his friends.

What he would like to see, he said, was for the people of South Carolina to keep together. He wanted to keep the State Democracy from splitting to pieces, and especially so at this time, and further that no yardstick should be put to any man's Democracy that would immeditely drive him from the party. The purpose of the committee, he thought, ought not to be to disrupt, but to hold the machinery and voters together and keep all of those in line who are anxious to drift away, and then if later on the question of splitting comes up it will be time enough to decide.

Senator Tillman was inclined to the opinion that State and national affairs ought to be kept apart, and that South Carolina could very well afford to act slowly. The State has twice before been alone in casting its electoral vote. He said that, while there was a good deal of talk about the position he had taken and how it would result, from what he could learn those who were opposing his position were mostly politicians who had placed their pegs in a certain line and did not wish to have to rearrange them. Those who were afraid of his plan seemed to think that they had a pre-emption on the offices, and were afraid to jeopardize their chances by bringing about a fight.

When I asked Senator Tillman what were the indications from the Washington end of the line, as he viewed them, he said that the indications were that the silver men would control the Democratic Convention in Chicago, and the probabilities were that if there is no bolt by the silver men from the Republican Convention in St. Louis it will be because the politicians, who will secure the places of delegates, will not represent Western Republican sentiment. He cited several instances of how the "machine" was trying to keep down a revolution in the Republican camp by the silver forces, but silver Republican Senators and others seem to be in the fight to the finish and will only be kept quiet because of the work of the "machine," if at all.

Senator Tillman went on to say that while he thought the silver delegates would be in the majority in the National Convention, he did not know what course the other delegates would take. By remaining in the Convention they may temper the action of the body sufficiently to nominate a weak candidate, or rather one who was not an aggressive and pronounced free silver man. If the Chicago Convention nominated a positive man on a free silver platform he felt that the St. Louis Silver and Populist Convention would support such a nominee.

Then Senator Tillman was asked what he thought of the Democratic chances any way, and he replied by saying that the chances were ten to one in favor of McKinley's nomination, and that the only way he saw of defeating him was by a consolidation of the silver forces. Sentiment in favor of silver has, in his opinion, grown greatly in the last few months. The silver men are getting ready to be more aggressive and determined and outspoken and they are going to leave either the Democratic or Republican party, if silver is not given the proper showing. "Why men who would not talk to me in December are about long side of me now," he remarked.

Senator Tillman happened to have several letters in his pocket from men in different States in which his position was approved. One of the letters was from a man in Iowa, who claimed to be a Republican and another was from a Texan who said for fifty years he had been a Democrat, but was ready to follow Tillman. Senator Tillman said he had received a thousand letters within the last few weeks from Republicans and twice as many from Democrats endorsing his position and begging him to help the fight along for silver. They all promised to go to any party that would give them silver, and those letters were only samples he thought of general opinion. He is satisfied that the majority of the voters in either of the big parties is ready to follow the silver banner no matter what party happens to be carrying it.

Senator Tillman is receiving many invitations to make addresses. He has made the following appointments for April: Lexington, Ky, April 11; Denver, Col, 15; Warrensburg, Mo, 18; lecture on problems of the Government for the Confederate Monumental Association, at St. Louis, 20, Owensboro, Ky, 22. He says he does not care to make dates any further in advance. He was asked whether he expected to make any speeches in South Carolina and he said that depended on circumstances, and he might, if he were able and there were occasion, come here after his Western trip.

—A Cuban sympathizer residing in Paris, France, has been sending a monthly contribution to the cause of $4,000, through a citizen of Philadelphia. The fifth installment has just been received from the gentleman, who simply signs himself "Un Amigo" (a friend). The money is turned over to Delegate Palma by Dr. Guiteras, of Philadelphia, who has been selected by the sympathizer's friend in Philadelphia to act as intermediary. Accompanying the last installment was a check for $1,000, which sum the sympathizer asks to be given to the widow of Manuel de la Cruz. Manuel de la Cruz was a Cuban patriot and publisher, secretary of Senor Palma, and he died in New York last February, leaving in poverty his widow and three children.

—Assistant Attorney General Townsend has stated that exhibition of receipts for poll and other taxes was not necessary to secure rregistration, but that a man could not vote if he could not show tax receipts dated at least six months prior to the election. The object of this six months provision is to prevent candidates and their friends, in the heat of a campaign, raising money and paying taxes in order to qualify voters.

DOWN IN FLORIDA AGAIN.

BILL ARP AMONG THE FLOWERS.

He Meets a Good Many Acquaintances—How a Fishing Party Caused Him Anxiety.

With but little warning I had to leave home and wife and two daughters and numerous grandchildren and run down to Florida on business. Here I am again at Clearwater, breathing its balmy air and feasting my vision upon the same beautiful sunsets and dancing waters and tropical scenery that always charm me when I come. I am happy with three other daughters and two dear little grandchildren and with congenial friends who greeted my coming and gave me a glad welcome. Life is still worth living, if for nothing else but the pleasure of meeting those who are dear to you and receiving the cordial salutation of friends. They tell me that if I did not discover Clearwater, I uncovered it to the Southern people, who had never heard of such a place, and now I find scores of visitors who are looking in upon the beauties of this place and buying property, and preparing to plant here their winter homes. I was surprised to see so many of Atlanta's good people visiting here—the Hillyers, Hemphills, Howells, Inmans, Swannas, English, Colonel George W. Scott, Dr. Palmer and others—and even Mr. Plant and Colonel Wrenn and their wives did for a time leave the Tampa Bay hotel and found a happy hiding place in Clearwater. Just think of Captain Evan Howell staying here a week or two without saying a word about Cleveland or finance or conventions or any other politics during his stay. The calm serenity of this heaven-favored spot put politics to the blash and smothers all selfish ambition and ungodly thoughts. The tired mind comes here in search of rest, and finds it.

Evan Howell used to smile at my gushing letters, and declared there was no such place this side of heaven; but now that he has seen it with his eyes, he can't find adjectives enough to express his admiration, and, like a loyal husband, has gone after his wife to come down and make a choice of a bay-front lot. He says he is prepared to believe anything I say—yes, even my fish stories. I told him about an old lady who had lived near here for fifty years, and when she wanted fish for breakfast, walked down the bluff and waded out a few yards into the crystal water and held out her apron and let the fish jump in it. Evan smiled, but said nothing. Next morning I met my old friend Turner, who publishes a paper at Statesboro, Ga. I introduced him to Captain Howell as a man who was born and raised here, and captain, thinking to put off a good joke on me, told Mr. Turner what I said about an old woman catching fish here in her apron before the war. Mr. Turner looked at him: "He told you the truth, sir; that woman was my mother."

When a man first comes here and sees extraordinary things, he is almost afraid to tell of them when he goes back home, and he begins to look around for a credible witness. Colonel Scott, the quiet old gentleman who founded the Agnes Scott institute, has bought a beautiful bay-front, with an orange grove attached, and asked me to walk down and see him measure a grape fruit tree. He did it very carefully, and found it was fifty-two inches around four feet from the ground. He said he had measured it before, but wanted a witness. So, for fear he may be suspected of exaggeration, I had just as well give the certificate. That tree is seventeen inches in diameter four feet up from its base. The groves around here have pretty much recovered from the freeze and are now covered with blooms. Some groves suffered but little, and never lost a crop. Mr. Bailey's grove, near Clearwater, gave him an average crop, and sold Mr. Markley's. Our home market has not been without a supply of fine, first-class fruit, as far superior to the California oranges as an apple is to a persimmon. If I had money, I would invest in a grove or two on speculation, for here is the safety line, and Florida oranges and grape fruit will command high prices for some years to come.

Yesterday morning our young people made up a grouper party and sailed out to the coral reefs in the green blue gulf. I was respectfully invited to stay at home and look after the little girl and they promised to be back by 4 o'clock. I read and wrote and ruminated and played with the child and helped her make sand pies, until the sun was nearing the horizon, but still there was no sail in sight. Every few minutes I scanned the distant waters and the two passes between the islands. The twilights are brief down here, and when the dark had spread its lonely curtain I began to be troubled, and walked the veranda with anxiety and impatience. Then I walked down to the dock, and was comforted with the information that our boat could not possibly get in until the tide rose and brought them, for there was not a breath or air to move a sail. Slowly and sadly I came home, and our little household had supper and cheered the lingering hours with prose and poetry and conversation. Ever and anon I came out and listened for a song to float its melody over the waters, for they always come back singing; but there was no sound save the ominous notes of a screech owl and the plaintive song of the whip-poor-will in the grove near by. At 9 o'clock we put the little girl to bed, but she, too, had become excited, and couldn't sleep. I sat by her and stroked her hair and her hands for an hour, when at last with a sigh, she dropped asleep. Eleven o'clock came and 12 and 12:30 o'clock, and I reasoned that the boat was on a sand bar and could not get off till morning. A boat party from Dunedin was stranded on a bar last week and had to stay there all night, and their families and friends were greatly alarmed and sent out searching parties for them. All is not gold that glitters even at Clearwater. At half-past 1 o'clock, while nodding in my chair, I was suddenly awakened by the sound of voices, and my heart bounded with gratitude and joy. The long suspense was over, for I had imagined many distressing things. Twice the little girl had talked in her sleep, and sighed and said, "Oh mercy!"

My daughter threw herself into a chair and exclaimed, "Oh, I am so tired and thankful;" and another daughter said: "Now, don't scold us one bit, but listen to our tale of woe." We started back at 3 o'clock, but soon found our boat becalmed away out in the gulf, and we could not move half a mile an hour. When night came we were five miles from home, and after we got into the north pass we lodged on a sand bar and had to wait for the tide to rise and float us off, and the four gentlemen then got into the little boat and pulled at the oars with all their might for three hours and towed the big boat after them. Oh, it was awful, and some of the girls got awfully sea sick and fed the fishes and lost their dinner, and we had a new pilot and lost our way and it was just awful! If I live a thousand years, I will never go out so far on the gulf again."

Well, of course, I did not scold them; but I will bet $2 they go again next week if they are invited. Already this morning they are boasting of what a good time they had at the grouper banks, and how they caught thirty-seven, and one that Miss English caught was three feet long, and would weigh thirty pounds. There is such a charm about these waters, that they cannot keep away from them.

But I am going home to my better and bigger half tomorrow and work in my garden, and in hers, too, of course, for "the winter is over and gone. The time for the singing of birds has come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in the land." BILL ARP.

ORDERS TO THE DISPENSERS.

The State Board of Control Issues Business—The Law Must be Strictly Enforced.

The State Board of Control has issued the following circular to the County Dispensers:

The Dispensary law under which you have hitherto worked became a nullity on the 31st of March, and you are now operating under a new law enacted by the recent Legislature, and under that Act you are amendable solely to the State Board of Control. The Board is composed of five members, who are charged with a general management of the Dispensary business, and from whom you will hereafter receive all orders and instructions. You must send to the State Board of Control (and not to the Commissioner or State Treasurer) the following: All orders for liquors, beers and wines; all invoices of empty bottles shipped by you, with bill lading attached; all claims for shortage on invoices and all invoices needing correction. Your weekly statement of sales and cash account and duplicate remittance to State Treasurer, your monthly reports on forms "A" and "B" and your quarterly reports must also be sent to the State Board of Control. You must remit on Monday of each week to the State Treasurer. To no one else must you send any reports, save the original weekly remittance blank to the State Treasurer. When your orders for shipments are received by the State Board of Control, they will be turned over to the Commissioner, whose duty it will be to ship them and send you invoice for same. But if any corrections are to be made or shortages on any invoice claimed, you must report the same to the State Board of Control, and not to the Commissioner.

Ship no more empty cases, and also refrain from shipping empty bottles until further orders from the Board. You must not speculate on your bottle purchases, as the rule allowing you to purchase is for the benefit of the parties selling, and not for your profit. This rule will be strictly enforced.

The State Board of Control are unalterable in their determination to rigidly enforce the Dispensary law, and they expect you to live up to every feature contemplated in the Act. Their administration of the law will be done fearlessly and without favor, and we hope, always tempered with justice. The trust reposed in you is a most important one, and you are charged with the sacred task of preserving the morality of that class of your community that is addicted to an intemperate use of intoxicants by rigidly enforcing the provisions of a law which clearly contemplates a betterment of the morals of the people by minimizing the use of intoxicants by all, and absolutely placing them, so far as is in your power, beyond the reach of inebriates and minors.

You must not allow any loafing or drinking on your premises, and your hearty co-operation in our efforts to faithfully carry out the true spirit and intention of the Dispensary law will receive our approbation.

Respectfully,

WILIE JONES, Chairman.
SETH W. SCRUGGS, Clerk.

PRIVILEGE TAX.—Clemson College will get a splendid revenue this year from the privilege tax. The State Treasurer has already received from that source this year between forty-eight and forty-nine thousand dollars. This shows that the farmers of this State will use this year nearly twice as much commercial fertilizer as they did last year, when the receipts from this source were only about $29,000.