

THE ADDRESS OF GOVERNOR BLEASE AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the General Assembly of South Carolina, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Independence of thought, freedom of action, an abiding trust in and devoted love for God have won for me the greatest political victory that has yet been recorded in the history of South Carolina. Aligned against me were a united daily press and an almost solid weekly and semi-weekly press, pouring forth all kinds of falsehood, vituperation and abuse, receiving the assistance of a number of men who call themselves ministers of the Gospel—God save the mark!—who stood behind their pulpits and gave vent to envy and malice and slanders of the most vile and malicious nature against me—

These hypocrites had left their masks and stood in naked ugliness. They were men who stole the livery of Heaven

To serve the devil in— all of these, combined with others making a set of political character thieves, the meanest and most contemptible people known to man.

I was never discouraged. I knew that God did not love the ugly, and that the people of South Carolina were for fair play to all her sons alike.

Men have rallied and fought in hundreds of battles, but no band of truer men or braver soldiers or more loyal and devoted friends ever rallied for a fight than those 56,602 brave and honorable men of South Carolina, who on September 13, 1910, said to my enemies, "You shall not press him down; you shall not crucify him upon a cross of vituperation, slander and falsehood; you shall not crown him with a crown of persecution, envy and malice." And by the help of an all-wise and all-powerful God, the victory was won, and we can and do to-day say:

"Praise, God from whom all blessings flow," and my prayer is that His choice blessings of this earth rest upon my friends, and may each of them some day be crowned with a diadem in Heaven.

For those who opposed me honestly and fairly, I have no word or censure. It was their right to do so, and I feel that they were but exercising their high right of American citizenship. For the others I have but pity, for I well know that their consciences, if they have any, are giving them censure and punishment enough for their cowardly and underhand manner of opposition.

I thank, and wish for you to convey my sincerest, most heartfelt thanks to your constituents for their assistance in giving to me the position which was the zenith of my political ambition. Should I never be elected to any position again, personally I will have accomplished all that my life's work has been for, so far as political preferment is concerned. The only ambition that is left is that I may perform the duties of the office of governor in such a manner that I may receive at the close of my term the "well done" from those who placed me in the position.

At the campaign meeting at Florence in 1910, I said: "I notice in the editorial columns of the State newspaper of this day, 'We shall in a day or two have something to say in regard to the candidacy of Candidate Blease, that will not be regarded as endorsement.' I believe that the people of South Carolina are in favor of fair play, and I now request and invite the man who wrote that article to come on the rostrum at Columbia, at the State campaign meeting at Columbia, next Saturday, August 6, and have his something to say in regard to the candidacy of Candidate Blease, in my face, where I can and will have the opportunity to make reply. And if he declines this, then I demand that he name a time and place where he will agree to meet me face to face and make his statement. Two years ago this paper published articles about me, and when my friends sent replies to these articles the publishers of the paper refused to publish them, thus cutting me off from any opportunity to prove their statements false to the readers of their paper. A brave man comes out in the open and fights face to face; a coward lurks in the dark, or hides behind his editorial desk, and assassin-like, strikes from behind. To which class does the writer of this article belong? His future actions will show."

At the campaign meeting in Columbia on August 6, I repeated the statement as made at Florence, and called for the writer to appear. He failed to do so, and I repeat the question: "To which class does the writer of this article belong?—and said, 'He is a coward.'"

I do not believe that it would be possible for any other man ever to have to undergo the vituperation and abuse

from the press that I had. And why did I have it? Because of my professional connection with a noted criminal case in this State. I most respectfully recommend that you gentlemen of the general assembly pass at this session an Act providing that any newspaper editor or reporter who shall publish, or cause to be published, any article reflecting upon the private character or the public record of any citizen of this State, which is not true, shall be punished by a fine and imprisonment. An Act of this character in my opinion, will save much bitter feeling, and possibly bloodshed, in the future of our State.

I beg leave in this connection to call your attention to a leading editorial in the Newberry Herald and News of September 9, 1910, which is as follows:

"It is a good subject at this particular time, and its importance has been driven home.

"The people of South Carolina are menaced

"The menace is unfair newspaper methods.

"The Columbia State of Thursday carried on its first page a cartoon of Mr. Cole L. Blease, over the label, 'The Menace.'"

"The Columbia State knew at the time the cartoon was published that it was as unfair as it was false. The Columbia State knew when the cartoon was designed that it was misleading and false. The Columbia State knew that the publication of the cartoon had for its object the misleading of the voters of South Carolina, and was, therefore, maliciously false, and was a malicious slander of a man who led all the rest of the candidates and received thirty per cent of the votes of the State. Is that not an intentional and gross insult to one-third of the voters of this State?"

"His side will have no showing in the Columbia State. No reply will be allowed.

"That is the Columbia State's method.

"That is 'the menace.'"

"The Columbia State has a large circulation. There are people who read the State and who do not see the other side, because the State does not print the other side.

"That is 'the menace.'"

"Before the first primary The News and Courier, the Columbia Record and other newspapers in South Carolina were charging the Columbia State with unfairness, and, in fact with malicious falsehood.

"Simply because these newspapers now agree with the State's policy in the gubernatorial race, will they keep silent under the same conditions which existed when they brought their charges against the Columbia State—because, forsooth, then the Columbia State was going against the grain and now it is cutting along with it?"

"Surely the manhood of the newspapers of South Carolina is not a thing of the past.

"The newspapers of South Carolina have in the past wielded a wonderful influence. It is because they have made for themselves a reputation of fairness, and, presenting both sides, have urged the claims of the side which the newspapers thought would be for the interests of the State of South Carolina.

"The course which some of them are now pursuing may help the men of their choice in this particular race—though we doubt it—but the profession suffers.

"Why not give everybody a 'square deal'?"

"The Columbia State, for instance, and other anti-Blease newspapers will reprint in their news columns comments favorable to Mr. Featherstone, but ignore anything favorable to Mr. Blease. That is 'newspaper' business, with a vengeance.

"So far as the Herald and News is concerned, we delight in being ignored by the Columbia State—or boycotted, or put on the famous 'black list,' as you please—but what we started out to say was that the cartoon in the Columbia State of Thursday morning was the limit downward in newspaper business as we have observed it.

"The days of factionalism and personal prejudice in South Carolina are happily over, and we believe that the people of South Carolina when the matter is brought to their attention will resent under-hand and below-the-belt methods.

"For that reason, which is creditable to the people of South Carolina, we believe the Columbia State and other newspapers who are taking, unfair advantage of Mr. Blease in this race are doing him more good than harm.

"It is not for Blease that we mourn, but for the newspaper profession.

"The menace"—the real menace—will be met by the people of South Carolina, as they have met all other questions.

"During the campaign and before

the first primary election, the Columbia State made a strong fight in an argumentative manner against Mr. Featherstone and thereby brought down the wrath of a large majority of the papers of South Carolina charging it with 'unfairness.' They had practically nothing to say about Mr. Blease he having distinctly defied them to make their charges, if any they had, to his face. They failed to do so. Now they are making one of the ugliest and most slanderous campaigns against Mr. Blease that has ever been waged in the State of South Carolina. What do the newspapers think of this fight at this time? Is it fair? Mr. Blease and his friends have no manner now in which to answer them for they will publish nothing favorable to Blease; he cannot answer it on the stump, the campaign is over."

And also an article from the Shreveport, La. Journal, of September, 1910:

"Speaking of The News and Courier, the election was a striking example of the wonderful 'power of the press' to mould public opinion. Every newspaper in the State, with the exception of two county weeklies, supported Featherstone and called Blease out of his name. They succeeded in making the people believe Blease a regular Satan in one respect. * * * A newspaper possesses power to direct public opinion only to the extent of its independence, its honesty and its impartiality. These three things are hard to find in combination in a newspaper of today."

And also an article from the Edgefield Chronicle:

"We do not join hands in the avalanche of abuse that has been heaped upon the head of the Governor-elect. If personality was the issue, how sad a reflection on Mr. Featherstone that he could not carry his own county, while Blease carried his by a substantial majority."

And also a comment from the Columbia Daily Record:

"Disliking to do so, for obvious reasons, yet the Record now feels constrained to say, as a supporter of Featherstone and an opponent of Blease, that the repulsive cartoon in the State of Thursday, portraying Blease as a vulture, is offensive to the sense of decency and fairness."

And an article from the Macon, Ga. Telegraph, of September 25, 1910:

"There is a citizen over in South Carolina by the name of Blease, who has done a remarkable thing. The readers of almost any South Carolina newspaper a week or two ago would have found good reason for the belief that Blease was everything that was bad or undesirable, to say the least; that in expressing a desire to become governor he had shown unpardonable presumption; that his candidacy was a fit subject for jest, and that he had not the ghost of a chance. The Charleston News and Courier contemptuously reported the fact that only three newspapers in the whole State had ventured to endorse the candidacy of Mr. Blease. All the dailies, large and small, the religious papers, nondescript and what not, thundered at Blease continually. Moreover, he was bombarded from the pulpit."

And an article from the New Orleans Picayune of September 14, 1910:

"The vote today hinged very largely

(Continued on page six.)

NOW is the Time — AND — WE are the Place

To buy Beardless Spring Barley at \$2.00 per bushel to sow and grow.

Red Rust Proof Seed Oats at 60 cents per bushel for spring sowing. Full stock of flour, corn, meal, molasses, bacon, sugar, coffee, lard, tobacco, feed oats and hay, cotton seed meal on hand, and the prices are right to meet your views.

We sell the well-known line of Blounts Turn Plows and Middle Buster Plows and points—no better plow made—a trial will convince the most skeptical that Blounts is the best plow on the market.

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J. H. Sullivan
LAURENS, S. C.

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You may be real fussy about your foot wear—you may have a real hard foot to fit—your ideas of style may be very plain and ordinary, or you may like an elaborate shoe—perhaps you have a tender foot or some pet spot that has to be favored—in any event, go to the nearest Craddock dealer and let him fit your foot.

THE SOUTHERN GIRL \$2.00—SHOE—\$2.50

is made in all leathers, all widths and sizes, on broad, easy lasts, on narrow lasts with high insteps, with high, low and medium heels, high arch, low arch, etc., etc. We include the best styles in our nobby patterns, and also make a number of shoes along plain and simple lines. With each goes the best of leather, honest making, long wear. See the line at our dealers' store in your town.

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CRADDOCK-TERRY CO., Lynchburg, Va.

This same shoe in our "Autograph" Brand, \$2.50 - \$3.00 is Goodyear Welt Sewed; in our College Woman's Walking Shoe, \$3.00 - \$3.50 - \$4.00. It equals the best custom make.

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LAURENS, S. C.

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Children's Sweaters 50c, Misses' Sweaters \$1.50, Ladies' Sweaters, strictly all wool, at \$2.50 and \$3.50.

All wool Mufflers, Togues and a complete line of Cotton and Wool Underwear, Cotton and Wool Hosiery, Blankets and Flannels.

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Farewell 1910 Welcome 1911

Happy New Year to All!

The Year 1910 has gone breaking all records in the Coal and Wood business. More Coal and Wood sold with none dissatisfied or disappointed. We guarantee

Our Coal to Give Satisfaction.

For we buy only the best grade of Coal. We handle all our Coal with forks—impossible for you to get any dirt or slack coal. Let us keep you warm.

J. W. & R. M. Eichelberger
"The Coal Men"
Phone 33.

NOTICE
— OF THE —
County Treasurer

The Books of the County Treasurer will be opened for the collection of State, County and Commutation Road Taxes for fiscal year, 1910, at the Treasurer's Office from October 15th, to December 31st, 1910. After December 31st, one per cent. will be added. After January 31st, two per cent. will be added, and after February 28th, seven per cent. will be added till the 15th of March, 1911, when the books will be closed.

All persons owning property in more than one Township are requested to call for receipts in each of the several Townships in which the property is located. This is important, as additional cost and penalty may be attached.

All able bodied male citizens between the ages of 21 and 60 years of age are liable to pay a poll tax of \$1.00 except old soldiers, who are exempt at 50 years of age. Commutation Road Tax \$1.00, in lieu of road duty. Road Tax to be paid by the 1st day of March, 1911. Other taxes to be paid at the time as stated above.

The tax levy is as follows:
For State purposes5% mills
For Constitutional School Tax 3 mills
For Ordinary County purposes 3 mills
For Interest on Railroad Bonds 1 mill
For Roads and Bridge Bonds 3 mills
For Court House Bonds1 mill

Total16% mills

Special Schools—Laurens Township.
Laurens No. 116 mills
Trinity Ridge No. 14 mills
Maddens No. 22 mills
Nannie No. 32 mills
Balleys No. 42 mills
Mills No. 52 mills
Oak Grove No. 62 mills

Special Schools—Youngs Township.
Youngs No. 23 mills
No. 43 mills
No. 53 mills
Fountain Inn No. 3B10 mills
Lanford No. 102½ mills
Ora No. 122 mills

Special Schools—Dials Township.
Green Pond No. 13 mills
Dials No. 23 mills
Shiloh No. 32 mills
Gray Court-Owings No. 52 mills
Barksdale No. 62 mills
Dials Church No. 72 mills

Special Schools—Sullivan Township.
Princeton No. 13 mills
Poplar Springs No. 52 mills
No. 44 mills
No. 54 mills
Tumbling Shoals No. 62½ mills
Brewerton No. 73 mills
Sullivan Township R R Bonds 4 mills

Special Schools—Waterloo Township.
Waterloo No. 143 mills
Mt. Gallagher No. 13 mills
Bethlehem No. 22 mills
Ekorn No. 32 mills
No. 42 mills
No. 52 mills
Mt. Pleasant No. 62 mills
Mt. Olive No. 74 mills

Special Schools—Cross Hill Township.
Cross Hill No. 136 mills
Cross Hill No. 12 mills
Cross Hill No. 22 mills
Cross Hill No. 42 mills
Cross Hill No. 52 mills
Cross Hill No. 62 mills

Special Schools—Hunter Township.
Mountville No. 164½ mills
Hunter No. 22 mills
Hunter No. 32 mills
Clinton No. 53 mills
Hunter No. 83 mills

Special Schools—Jacks Township.
Jacks No. 153 mills

Special Schools, Scuffletown Township.
Scuffletown No. 12 mills
Lanford No. 192½ mills
Ora No. 122 mills

Prompt attention will be given those who wish to pay their Taxes through the mail by check, money order, etc.

Persons sending in lists of names to be taken off are requested to send them early; and give the Township of each, as the Treasurer is very busy during the month of December.

J. D. MOCK,
County Treasurer,
Oct. 7th, 1910—tl.

Too Late, Too Late,

to think about taking out a policy on your house if it is already burning. We take a risk but not a certainty. If you have taken time by the forelock, and insured your property against fire, you have the

Absolute Certainty

that the company Will pay all your losses. The race is to the swift, and you owe it to your family to protect them from all troubles. Do not be a laggard.

E. H. WILKES & SON
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Laurens, S. C.

