

THE FIRST MEETING IN STATE CAMPAIGN.

Candidates For the Various Offices Speak in Sumter.

THEY NUMBER THIRTY-FIVE.

Col. Heyward Makes a Fine Impression --Col. Tillman Has Something to Say About His Controversy With Editor Gonzales--The Other Speakers.

The candidates for State offices assembled yesterday on the stage of the Opera House, where the initial meeting of the campaign was held, at 11 o'clock the hour appointed for the meeting to begin, but the audience gathered slowly and the meeting was not called to order by County Chairman J. M. Knight until 11.15, at which time there were not over 200 persons in the Opera House, exclusive of the 35 candidates.

In calling the meeting to order Chairman Knight announced that the candidates for Governor would first address the audience, the speakers being called on in alphabetical order. The candidates for this office have been limited to 30 minutes each. As the first speaker, he introduced Hon. Martin F. Ansel, of Greenville.

ANSEL FOR GOVERNOR.

Mr. Ansel, after expressing his pleasure in addressing for the first time a Sumter audience, gave a brief outline of his public service as a member of the Legislature and as Solicitor of the Eighth Judicial Circuit. He said that there were many issues of importance that he could discuss, but he would confine himself to a few only. One of the planks of the platform he would advocate would be for the State to take care of the old soldiers. Another would be to advocate the support of and improve the schools of the State, for the children of the country must be educated. Education is the question, the burning issue, of the day. Having been deprived of the privileges and advantages of a college education, he could fully realize the necessity for the better education of all children, especially those who have to be content with a common school education.

He said he was also a friend of good roads, and in his opinion the good roads movement is a living question of the day. It would be a good idea for the national government to turn out some of its great reserve for building roads. The convicts should be put to building roads throughout the State. He favors the dispensary and if elected would do his full duty as Governor to enforce it, and in all other matters will do his duty, in the fear of no man.

CAPT. D. C. HEYWARD.

When Capt. D. C. Heyward was introduced he was greeted with vigorous handclapping. He said that he had come to Sumter in the hope of making friends, but he was glad to find that he already had some. He was no stranger in Sumter, it was true, but he came today in a different capacity from that of his former visits. He came as a candidate for Governor of South Carolina. He was making the campaign on his merits, and if he could not be elected on his merits he did not want the office. He would not make a campaign of slander and vituperation, for he did not propose to endeavor to attain office by reflecting upon the characters of the gentlemen opposed to him.

He was heart and soul in favor of all measures that would build up the people of the State industrially and in every other way. The dispensary law he regarded as a settled issue, and there was no need to discuss it save to say that he regarded it as the best solution of the liquor question yet devised, if properly enforced, and he could as Governor enforce it fearlessly and conscientiously.

He declared himself to be a Democrat, a party man, and supported and upheld the platform of the party, State and national.

Having cleared the field of general questions for strictly speaking, they are not issues in a State campaign, he took up the questions he conceived to be the real issues of the campaign.

On the child labor question he declared his opposition to children working in cotton mills. He favored the enactment of a law to regulate child labor in cotton mills that would be of gradual effect in respect to the age of children to be permitted to work in the mills. He did not desire the enactment of a drastic law that would cripple at one blow the great cotton mill industry.

He took strong ground in favor of education by the State. All colleges should be liberally provided for and the common schools should be more liberally supported, so that they can properly perform the great work they have to do. He hoped to see South Carolina lead the Southern States in having a complete system of public schools.

He amplified the argument in favor of good roads, showing the present needs and the benefits that would follow the building of good roads throughout the State. He had been one of the original good roads advocates in the State and had made a speech on that subject before the first good roads convention ever held in South Carolina.

He favors the drainage of swamps and lowlands. South Carolina is a small State and needs every foot of land that can be brought into profitable cultivation. He heartily favors biennial sessions of the Legislature, for he sees no necessity for annual sessions, which are a source of heavy expense to the taxpayers.

He is opposed to the trusts, and if it should be his good fortune to be elected Governor he will be watchful and will do his full duty to protect the interests of the people.

W. JASPER TALBERT.

Congressman W. J. Talbert said, in opening his speech, that he had a text, but as his friend, Mr. Heyward, had accused him of taking some of his thunder, he was almost afraid to

begin, for Mr. Heyward had taken exactly the positions he had outlined at the Donalds meeting on Saturday, where he had made the first speech.

In the outset, he would state his idea of the motives that should actuate any man who aspires to public office. No man should offer as a candidate for an office of trust unless he is determined to discharge the duties of the office honestly and fearlessly, without bias or hope of reward save to the consciousness of a duty faithfully performed and the approbation of the people. He said he hoped not to see the day that the non-possession of money would be an embargo upon election to office. He has such confidence in the people of South Carolina that he had no hesitation in declaring that he did not believe there was a white man in the State to whom a corrupt office-seeker would dare offer money for his vote.

He opposes trusts and the exaction of corporate greed, and favors laws to restrict and regulate all corporations. He is friendly to capital and invites it to come amongst us for investment. But capital should be satisfied with the protection of the just laws of our State. We should see that capital is protected in all its rights and we should give it exact justice.

As to "Commercial Democracy," he said he had no respect for the man or men who would come among us in the disguise of a Democrat and preach Republicanism and the doctrines fostered by the trusts and monopolies. Such a man had no more right amongst our people than the midnight assassin. He would have nothing to say about our junior Senator, for he is dead politically.

He discussed the question of the relation of labor and capital and the Horse Creek lockout as an outgrowth of this matter. He favors good roads and believes in building them by township taxation, so that the people of each community shall have the right to say how much they shall pay for building roads.

He would not take away a single brick or stone from any college in the State, and favored supporting all of these institutions with liberality, but was especially in favor of the improvement of the common schools. He wants to see the common schools so improved and developed that every white boy and girl in the State can get a good education without ever going to college.

He does not believe in taxing a white man to educate negro children. The tax white men pay should go to the support of schools for white children and taxes paid by negroes should go to schools for negroes.

The dispensary law he sincerely believed to be the best possible solution of the liquor question. He believed in the law, and it should be enforced in Charleston, Columbia and Sumter, and all other places.

He closed with an eloquent tribute to the old Confederate soldiers, and declared his unyielding belief in the principles for which they fought and died. They should be cared for in their old age.

JAMES H. TILLMAN.

Lieutenant Governor J. H. Tillman, also a candidate for Governor, said he was amused at the emphasis with which all of the distinguished speakers who had preceded him dwelt upon the question of good roads. He favored good roads, as all men do, but was opposed to taxing the people to build them while the people are already over-taxed.

From the speech of the other candidate from Edgefield (Col. Talbert), one would form the conclusion that he is a candidate for United States Senator, else why dwell so long upon the question of trusts? But if he is so opposed to trusts, why did he of his own volition leave his seat in Congress, to which he has been elected for ten years without opposition, when by remaining there he could have rendered his people some service against the trusts? He is not opposed to office-holding, but favors a time limit, for some of the candidates have held office for so long that when they come to die they will in the hereafter come out as candidates for office from force of habit. His opponent, Col. Talbert, has been holding office since before he left school.

He favors a law to regulate child labor in cotton mills.

He has always favored liberal pension for old soldiers, and believes that every needy old soldier should be provided for, but does not favor a soldier's home.

THE STATE VS. TILLMAN.

He said that he would now discuss, for the last time, he hoped, a matter that all would find more interesting. He would now devote some time to his Cuban subject. He reviewed the case of N. G. Gonzales and The State (newspaper) vs. James H. Tillman, Lieutenant Governor, in the matter of the now notorious ruling by the said Tillman, while President of the Senate, that a motion to indefinitely postpone was not debatable, and the controversy growing out of it. Mr. Tillman said that he appealed to the record, and read from the Senate journal the statement he had spread on the journal as a matter of personal privilege. The editor of The State in his attack had placed words in his (Tillman's) mouth that he had never uttered, and instead of going to the record, had appealed to his own paper, and his four column review yesterday of The State's exhibits, taken from The State, was merely a renewal of the attack previously made. He was willing to be judged by the record, and the Senate journal should be placed in the balances and weighed against the exhibits taken from The State. He had been charged with falsifying the record and making false statements concerning the opinion of Speaker Henderson of the United States House of Representatives and President pro tem. Frye of the United States Senate. He had never stated that these gentlemen had sustained his ruling, and the Senate journal would show that he had made no such statement.

A PERSONAL MATTER.

It has been asserted in this connection that he had treated the Senators with discourtesy. In answer to this charge he would call upon members of the Senate present and let them say whether or not he had treated them with discourtesy. He called on Senator Caughman, of Saluda, and Senator Sharpe, of Lexington, both of whom said he had not. He then called on Senator Manning, who replied: "You never treated me, personally,

with discourtesy,"—with emphasis on "personally."

Returning to The State and Gonzales matter, he said that he now came to a matter that was filled with sad memories of personal sorrow and bereavements. Reading a report of the Donalds meeting in the News and Courier, he found the statement that his father, the late Col. George D. Tillman, never had a more loyal and devoted friend than this same Editor Gonzales! In reply to this he had only to say that Gonzales had oftentimes protested his friendship to Col. Tillman, but he (the speaker) firmly believed that Gonzales always had an object in view. Gonzales had supported Col. Tillman in his last race for Congress against Col. Talbert, and for this he (the speaker) had written Gonzales a letter, thanking him for his support. But he believed that Gonzales was always at heart false and his friendship for Col. George D. Tillman was never more than a pretense. If it were possible for the spirits of the departed dead to return to earth, he could imagine the expression of proud scorn and contempt that would be on his honored father's face while he repudiated the false claims of loyal friendship now put forward by this man.

Col. Tillman was heard with the most intense interest and the closest attention was given him throughout his speech.

In closing, he pledged himself, if elected Governor, to discharge the duties of the office faithfully and fearlessly, and would by no act do anything dishonorable or creditable to his State, his people, his God or himself.

DR. TIMMERMAN.

Dr. W. H. Timmerman, former Lieutenant Governor, former State Treasurer and now a candidate for Governor, was next introduced, and about one-half of the audience left the house. Their departure was not intended as a mark of disrespect, but showed lack of interest in what the speaker might say and that the time for dinner had come.

Dr. Timmerman's speech was devoid of interest, and was mainly filled with apologies for his deficiencies as an orator. He reviewed his career and record as an office-holder and asserted that by reason of this experience he is better qualified than any of his opponents to discharge the duties of the office of Governor. He favors good roads, the support of State colleges, the public schools and all educational institutions. He favored a law to regulate child labor in mills, because the State Convention had declared itself on that measure; but he would go a step further than his opponents, for if the bill becomes a law and forbids a poor widow woman to hire out her children, and thus deprive her of her only means of support, the State should provide for the support of that widow.

This concluded the speaking of the candidates for Governor.

OTHER SPEAKERS.

When the candidates for Governor concluded their speeches the audience was tired and quite a number left before the lesser lights had their innings.

Mr. Cloe L. Blesae, of Newberry, who had once before appeared as a candidate for Lieutenant Governor, spoke for five minutes and gave the reasons that seemed to him to be sufficient to convince the voters that he was the "properest" man for the place.

Mr. Frank E. Gary, of Abbeville, made a straightforward talk and referred to his record as Speaker of the House of Representatives as a proof of his qualification for the office.

Col. John T. Sloan, of Richland, made a regular Fourth of July spread eagle oration, and if it were possible to crowd into a five-minute talk more complimentary allusions to Sumter and her people from the earliest times to the present day Col. Sloan would have been the man to do it.

Mr. U. X. Gunter, Jr., of Spartanburg, Assistant Attorney General, and Mr. W. F. Stevenson, of Chesterfield, Speaker of the House of Representatives for two years, were the candidates for Attorney General.

Mr. Gunter asked for the office as a reward for his services in the position he now holds. He told what he had done, emphasizing the value of his work in connection with the school chart litigation, resulting in the saving of thousands of dollars to the taxpayers; in the Virginia-Carolina anti-trust case and in other matters of like importance. He asked for the endorsement of the people, because he felt he was worthy of it and entitled to promotion. He impressed his hearers that he has a high conception of his own value as a public officer and wished to be taken at this valuation on election day.

STEVENSON IS SARCASTIC.

Mr. Stevenson jumped on his opponent and ridiculed his pretensions in a merciless but at the same time amusing and telling manner. He said he had never before heard of an assistant office-holder claiming the right to succeed his chief and objecting to any opposition to his office-holding ambition. "Mr. Gunter talks about the effort to take away his job, but I tell you he has no job that I want. If I am elected, as I expect to be, Mr. Gunter may continue to hold the job he now has." As to the school chart matter, he would say he was not accustomed to advertise himself by publishing the opinions he wrote, hence the people did not know that he was the first man to take the school chart swindle into court, but the records would show that as attorney for Chesterfield County he had gone into court and had obtained an injunction against the payment of these fraudulent claims three months before Mr. Gunter wrote and published the opinion of which he now boasted, which opinion merely followed the line of the argument he made when he instituted the proceedings in court. Throughout his speech Mr. Stevenson was vigorous, forcible and sarcastic, and the telling hits made on the vulnerable and weak points of his opponent's speech were seen, appreciated and enjoyed by the audience. He made a decided impression, and it was generally remarked that his speech was one of the best of the day and did not have the earmarks of commonplace monotony so characteristic of a majority of the appeals for votes made by those seeking any of the other of the minor offices in the State House.

State Treasurer R. H. Jennings, who has no opposition for re-election, merely announced his candidacy and thanked the people of Sumter for the support given him two years ago.

The candidates for Secretary of State were Col. J. T. Austin, of Greenville, J. T. Gantt, of Columbia, and Col. J. Harvey Wilson, who spoke briefly. Col. Wilson said that he had no speech to make to his own people, who know his merits and his faults. He had only to thank them for their unvarying kindness and to say to them that should he be defeated the defeat would be robbed of bitterness by the endorsement of his home people; that victory without their endorsement would be robbed of all its sweetness.

The other candidates who spoke were A. B. Martin, of Greenville, and John J. McMahan, of Columbia, for Superintendent of Education; N. W. Brooker, of Columbia, A. W. Jones, of Abbeville, W. H. Sharpe, of Lexington, and G. L. Walker, of Greenville, who want to be Comptroller General; Col. John C. Boyd, of Greenville, Col. J. D. Frost, Col. John M. Patrick, of Anderson, and Mr. George D. Rouse, of Charleston, aspirants for the Adjutant Generalship; Messrs. James Canler, B. L. Caughman, W. Boyd Evans, A. C. Jepson, H. J. Kinard, John G. Moble, H. H. Prince and J. C. Wilborn, candidates for Railroad Commissioner.

The meeting closed at 4.25, after a continuous performance of more than five hours. At the end there were less than a hundred persons in the house, candidates included.

Early Cotton Bloom.

Mr. T. M. Bradley, of Braun, Sumter County, sends the Watchman and Southron a cotton bloom under date of June 14, which, he says, is the first he has noticed in his cotton this season. This, he says, makes cotton in that section two weeks earlier than it was last year—the first bloom in his field in 1901 having been on June 28. Crops generally are reported in good condition.

Rising Rivers.

Under date of June 16, 10:20 a. m., the weather forecast official at Charleston issued the following bulletin: "The streams at Camden and Cheraw will rise 16 feet to 20 feet during the next 48 hours. The Congaree, at Columbia, will rise 15 feet to 20 feet additional during the next 48 hours."

Band Concert This Evening.

Don't forget that this evening the band will expect you on the Green, where you can enjoy yourself and see your little ones do likewise. The music will be first-class and the refreshments will be refreshing. Come out and spend the evening with the boys; you will enjoy yourself.

For the Tournament.

The Charleston Hose Reel team is hard at practice for the tournament which will take place at Sumter June 25 and 26. The team is being trained by Capt. T. B. Colcolough, for whom much of the credit for the recent victories are due. The boys are hopeful of capturing a number of the prizes.—Charleston Evening Post.

The Gibson Craze.

We have had the "ping-pong" shirt-waist and cravat, but there has arisen a decidedly new craze in the "Gibson cravat and waist." The style has not yet been introduced in Sumter, but it is coming, surely, and is said to be so thoroughly fetching that it bids fair to be quite the rage.

Any white material is employed and upon the ends of the cravat and down the front and on the cuffs of the shirt-waists are "Gibson" heads done in indelible ink.

Compression of Cotton.

The Board of Railroad Commissioner, in their regular weekly meeting at Columbia on Friday, received a complaint from Harby & Co., of Sumter, protesting against the amount allowed by the roads to compresses for the compression of cotton. The commission was assured that this reduction in compression was the result of bids on the part of the various companies to do this work. Upon the result of this information the decision of the board was postponed.

Representative Lever's Work.

Congressman Lever has been notified by wire that the postoffice department has, upon his recommendation, decided to establish the free carrier system in the town of Sumter, to take effect on September 1. Mr. Lever says that some six or seven rural routes for Lexington have been favorably reported. As soon as these are established the department will again take up the matter of rural routes in Orangeburg and Sumter counties.

Large Cotton.

Three stalks of cotton were left at this office Saturday by Ben Jones, who farms on Mrs. Tuomey's Bell Mill place. The tallest measures 34 inches and the shortest 23 inches from the first roots at top of ground to the end of stalk. Each has 20 forms, the most developed of which are beginning to show the bloom. He says he has 50 to 60 acres like the samples brought.

Conductor W. J. Hall Hurt.

Conductor W. J. Hall, of the Northwestern Railroad, while on the way to Camden last Thursday night on the mixed freight and passenger train, met with an accident that narrowly missed having a fatal ending. He was on top of the train just before it reached Rembert's station, when his head was caught by a telegraph wire.

He was knocked down and dragged on the top of the car for some distance and narrowly escaped being dragged off. His ear was badly cut by the wire and his face and head were considerably bruised. He lost his lantern and cap, but he considers that he was fortunate in escaping with his life.

Demagogues govern some communities and demijohns rule others.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

Railroad Rates to Triennial Convention at Denver, June 26--July 2.

Southern Railway announces rate of one fare for the round trip, plus \$2 from all points in this territory, to Denver. Tickets will be sold June 21, 22 and 23, with final limit leaving Denver July 31, with privilege of extension to August 31. Parties taking this trip have an excellent opportunity of visiting the Grand Canyon, Pike's Peak, Garden of the Gods, Yellowstone Park, Salt Lake City and other points in the West, as reduced rates will be made for these side trips.

Dr. W. E. Pelham, of Newberry, State chairman, will be in charge of the South Carolina delegation, going via Southern Railway to St. Louis, at which point immediate connections will be made for Denver.

For further information apply to W. E. McGee, T. P. A., Augusta, Ga., R. L. Seay, P. & T. A., Columbia, S. C., or R. W. Hunt, D. P. A., Charleston, S. C. June 16--6t.

RAZORS IN THE AIR.

Preston Jackson Seriously Cut in a Family Fight.

Preston Jackson, a negro, who lives on Mr. W. A. Bowman's place, seven miles from this city, was brought to town Saturday morning in a badly carved up condition.

His left arm was terribly cut in five places, the flesh being laid open almost to the bone. There were also several wounds on the right arm, but these cuts were not as deep as those on the other arm.

Preston's wife did the carving with a razor and the condition of Preston's arm was positive proof of her skill as a manipulator of a razor. Preston did not state the cause of the family jar that led up to the cutting. In reply to questions he merely said, "My own wife did it."

BEAUTIFY THE CITY!

Let Sumter Be Gaily Decorated for the Firemen's Tournament.

The Firemen's Tournament will be held within less than two weeks, and if any effort is to be made to decorate the business section of the city in honor of the occasion, preparations to that end should be under way. There are probably not enough flags and bunting in town to properly decorate one store, and if those who expect to decorate their stores and residences put off until the last day the purchase of material they will be disappointed. The merchants will have to order flags and bunting if there is a demand for decorating material, and there is now none too much time in which to order and get there in time.

It would be well to have the town decorated, for it will create a favorable impression on the many visitors and contribute much toward the success of the tournament. The business men have put a good deal of money into the tournament already, and while it may seem, at first glance, to be a small matter whether or not the city is decorated, the little things often count most, and if the crowds that are expected come, it would be a pity to fail to make a good impression.

Decorate! Decorate!

THROUGHOUT SOUTH CAROLINA.

Current Events in the Palmetto State Laconically Recorded.

—Flat cars on the transportation systems in Chesterfield county are very scarce. Box cars are easily obtained, but there seems to be a scarcity in the stock of flat cars. Much lumber is now in the lumber yards in the county, waiting for cars to remove it.

—The North Augusta hotel structure over on Hamburg Heights is getting along splendidly. The roof is now on the west wing. The east wing is above the second story. All foundations are in. Over one hundred hands are daily at work on the building. It will be thrown open to guests on or before Jan. 1, 1903.

—Fifty thousand dollars, additional will be raised for the endowment of Furman university. Half of it is already in sight and President Montague will at once begin the canvass for the other half.

—At a meeting of the city taxpayers of Georgetown, a tax of two mills was voted for school purposes for the scholastic year 1902-03.

—The capital stock of the company which will build a hotel in Abbeville has reached the sum of \$16,000, and it will be increased to \$20,000. A charter will be secured at once.

—The construction of the new system of waterworks in Charleston means the expenditure of more than a million dollars next year in Charleston. The system will cost something above \$800,000 and as soon as the work starts the government will begin the construction of the naval station and dry docks. The sum of \$637,300 has been appropriated for the preliminary work, which will begin at once.

—The Adjutant General has sent forward the requisitions on South Carolina's quota of uniforms and equipments, available from the federal government to July 1.

—Though the talk about the probable resignation of Senator McLaurin is apparently dying out, the Governor is still receiving letters of advocacy of certain men who would like to succeed him.

—The candidates for governor, the United States senate and congress spoke at Donalds, Saturday. It was a pleasant gathering of about 1,500 people, representing the counties of Abbeville, Anderson, Greenwood, Laurens and Greenville. Senator Henderson and John Gary Evans were not present.

—Edmund H. Deas, the Republican State chairman, has gone to Washington. In view of the fact that the president has "turned down" McLaurin and Capers, it is believed the "organization" will be recognized. It is said the Republicans are sanguine as to favorable future developments.

—The deficit of the Charleston Exposition Company will amount to about \$450,000, the bulk of the loss falling upon Capt. F. W. Wagener, the president, whose loss is estimated at \$150,000.

—Smallpox, which a few weeks ago was feared might become epidemic in Camden, has been completely stamped out. Not a single new case has been reported and all the old ones are about well.

THE SENATORIAL CAMPAIGN.

Some Features of the Meeting Held in Columbia.

The initial meeting of the Senatorial campaign in Columbia was characterized by good feeling all around and the occasion was not marred by a disagreeable feature. A notable feature was the presence of many ladies, who applauded the speakers liberally.

The speeches all dealt with the leading national issues, following the line of those delivered last summer. John Gary Evans' speech touched upon McLaurin, and was the real feature of the meeting. He referred to his own political record, tossed some stones in the direction of Mr. Latimer, and went for Cuba and the Cubans.

Speeches were made, in the order named, by Congressman Latimer, D. S. Henderson, George Johnstone, Congressman Elliott, former Congressman John J. Hemphill, ex-Governor John Gary Evans, Congressman Lever and his opponent, J. B. McLaughlin, of St. Matthews.

Augusta's Gretna Green.

Augusta, June 17.—Hamburg, the Gretna Green of Augusta, is doing a rushing business again. Licenses are required for marriages in this State and where there are runaway and hurry-up nuptial affairs they are usually pulled off with the aid of a hack and a trip across the Savannah. Last Sunday there were four runaway knots tied by the judge and yesterday the total was increased by two more.

Sudden Death in Chicago.

Chicago, June 16.—Genio M. Lambertson, one of the leading lawyers of Lincoln, Neb., died early Sunday morning at the Palmer House of heart disease. Mr. Lambertson came to Chicago on Saturday and in the afternoon witnessed the Chicago-Northwestern University base ball game at Marshall Field, and in the evening attended a banquet at the University of Chicago, and responded to a toast. In company with his wife he returned to the hotel and retired shortly before midnight, and when Mrs. Lambertson arose Sunday morning she discovered her husband was dead. Under President Harrison he was assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Decorate! Decorate!

Mr. LeRoy Mitteldorfer, representing the firm of Mitteldorfer & Son, decorators, of Richmond, Va., was in Sumter Monday. His brother, Mr. M. Mitteldorfer, will be here tomorrow, and those who desire to have their places of business or residences decorated, in the highest style of the art for the forthcoming firemen's tournament would do well to see Mr. Mitteldorfer. He can be found at the Hotel Sumter. He has already closed several contracts for decorations.

RAILROAD RACKET.

Capt. S. G. Gilbert, for more than 30 years a popular conductor on the old South Carolina and Georgia road, has retired from railroad work and is now in the insurance business in Charleston.

Mr. D. J. Justice, for a number of years connected with the mechanical department of the Atlantic Coast Line, but more recently with the Seaboard Air Line, now has a good position with the Louisville and Nashville road.

The watermelon crop throughout the melon section along the Southern railway between Columbia and Savannah is reported to be in fine condition and a heavy one. The movement of Florida melons has already begun. In the next ten days the movement of Georgia and South Carolina melons will begin in earnest.

The latest method in political strategy is to have a number of heeled men to keep in the hand-shaking process and to tell the people why the other fellow should not be elected.

Experience that is given away is seldom appreciated.

When the day breaks some men are too lazy to make use of the pieces.

The American Bell Telephone Company construction corps is camped at the old C., S. & N. depot and headquarters will be maintained here for sometime while the construction of the long distance lines are being pushed northward. There are a large number of men employed on the work and at present there are between fifty and a hundred in the city. The line was built from Augusta to this point, following the M. & A. R. R. from Denmark. Leaving the city, the line follows the W. C. & A. track to a point near the brick yard, where it turns almost at right angles and strikes the Moses road at the bend, near the old fair grounds.

A CARD.

To the Democratic Voters of Sumter County:

—Finding that personal interests demand it, I take this method of announcing my withdrawal from the race for County Treasurer in the ensuing Democratic primary elections.

In making the above announcement, I cannot refrain from expressing to the people of Sumter County the deep sense of gratitude I feel for the continued confidence bestowed on me during the eight years I will have served them at the expiration of my term.

In return, it has been my earnest desire and honest endeavor to show my appreciation of the honors bestowed in a practical way by a faithful discharge of the official duties and responsibilities imposed, and my keenest desire to retire from this office with the good will and esteem of the good people of Sumter County.

H. L. Scarborough.