

TILLMAN ISSUES FAREWELL WARNING

Says That He Will Retire From Office at End of Present Term

POINTS OUT DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN TILLMANISM AND BLEASEISM AND SHOWS HARMFUL EFFECTS OF ELECTING EXECUTIVE TO SENATE—BELIEVES IN PEOPLE AND THEIR RULE, FOR THEY WILL CORRECT MISTAKES.

Washington, Aug. 14.—Senator B. R. Tillman, today announcing that he would not again become a candidate for the senate, gave out the following signed statement:

"Fellow Citizens:
"I was 67 years old the 11th day of August and felt like sending all of you a greeting. I served you as governor four years and have been your senator in Washington 20 years. When my term expires March 4, 1919, if I live so long, I shall have held the highest offices in your gift for 28 years. An old man desires to thank you for your generous support all this long while. May he not, without boasting, but in sincerity and earnestness, say that he has done his very best for both South Carolina and the nation? Constituted as I am, I could not have done otherwise. One of the first lessons my good and noble mother taught me was, 'If a thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well.' While I was governor therefore, I was governor, as every one in South Carolina knows, not of the Tillmanites alone, but of all the people. And since I have been senator I have tried to be as good a senator as there was in Washington.

"Since August, 1885, when I made my first speech at Bennettsville, I have been one of the most prominent figures, and since 1890 the most powerful political factor in South Carolina. From the very start I won the love and confidence of a large majority of my fellow citizens and it was because of the genuineness of my Democracy that I was so hated and bitterly opposed. Many good men believed I was an office seeking demagogue and could find no language strong enough to express their hatred and contempt.

"Two years ago when a test of my patriotism came, I demonstrated to those who had always opposed me that I was not the selfish politician they had judged me to be. No one knew better than I the risk I ran in making the Ferguson letter public. I knew it jeopardized my reelection but I would rather have been beaten than to have remained silent. My frankness, straightforward openness of speech and honesty of purpose—I despise hypocrisy above all other vices—have thrown me into many a briar patch when a more cautious man would have avoided, but I never have lost sight of the ideals which opened before me at Bennettsville and the welfare and uplift of the masses have always been the guiding star which led me on. Your faith, fellow citizens, sustained me, and I greet you in this farewell address with affection and confidence.

"This is my good-bye to public office. I shall not be a candidate again. Two years ago when I asked you to reelect me that I might 'die in harness' I fully expected to die very soon; but the good Lord has seen fit to prolong my life and by teaching me to live rationally has enabled me to regain some degree of health. Should I live to the end of my term, I shall be 72 years of age and I now serve notice upon all who are interested that I shall not try to succeed myself. If I live until March 4, 1919, I shall die out of and not in harness, as I have always wanted to do. But I shall not worry. Death awaits us all and is inevitable. I go the way of all my fathers, and I try to say in all humility and sincerity, 'Lord, Thy will be done.'

"For four years at least many men in South Carolina have had their eyes on the seat I held. This is natural because of my illness and the expectation of my early death. There has been some discussion of it in the newspapers, which was to be expected. How curious, fantastic and cruel is human selfishness; but withal how natural a thing it is. It is the only element of human nature which is universal. I do not complain at it, and I earnestly hope that the man who is chosen will serve the people as faithfully as I have. You may find a man with more ability than I possess; you can not find one who will bring to his work greater earnestness and honesty of purpose.

"Under the peculiar circumstances which now exist in South Carolina, I hope I may be permitted to say a few words about the present situation in our State without being misunderstood. It gives me deep concern. I am mortified and disappointed that the primary system has failed to develop in the people sufficient political intelligence to enable them to escape

the wiles and tricks of demagogues. Audacity and aptitude in repartee, coupled with a striking personality, have made the people an easy prey. Instead of candidates being compelled to discuss public questions and policies, they have been allowed to make appeals to prejudice, and the people, blinded by these arts, have followed and made heroes of men who are wholly unworthy. I have been and still am accused of inaugurating this method of campaigning. I challenge the production of a single speech of mine wherein I departed from the discussion of public issues or indulged in unparliamentary language until forced to do so by unfair opponents. The more bitter enemies of the reform movement began the vituperation and abuse that have marked South Carolina politics since 1890. They answered argument with invective; they greeted truth with showers of mud and filth; and they, not I, must bear the responsibility.

"Two years ago I lamented the same thing, and said I doubted whether I had not made a mistake in giving the people the ballot and teaching them how to use it. But I was impatient. I here reaffirm my confidence in the people—all the people collectively. I believe that the judgment of the whole people—rich and poor, educated and ignorant, high and low—is the surest and truest guide to political action. Their mistakes will be fewer and will be more quickly mended than will be the errors of any one class, be it ever so enlightened. I believe this so religiously; that I would rather have a bad governor or a bad senator elected by all the people than a good one elected by any one class. The whole people correct their blunders; the rule of a class tends to the growth and perpetuation of abuse. I have implicit faith that all the people of South Carolina are going to stamp out Bleaselsm sooner or later. The strongest Bleaselsmites will be leaders as soon as they are convinced that they have made a mistake. If I did not believe this, I would lose all faith in self-government.

"Jefferson's slogan was, 'Teach the people and trust the people.' To this principle all patriots will give credence, and all Democrats will gladly obey. When the demagogue comes along and blinds the people by the glamor of his arts and insinuates devilry and poison into their minds, good citizens must not despair, but redouble their efforts; for the truth is more powerful than falsehood and must prevail in the long run.

"Again I reaffirm my faith in the people. The battle between privilege and freedom, between equality and favoritism, is world-wide, and ages old. It has brought the cataclysm which we are witnessing in Europe today. The people of that continent are struggling to free themselves from the shackles of autocracy and the divine right of kings. It is a battle between autocracy and republicanism. The contest in South Carolina in 1890 was to overthrow an aristocracy which had come down to us from colonial days.

It was a real revolution, in which families were divided, father against son, and brother against brother, showing that principle, and principle alone, moved the people to action. It was my high privilege to lead the movement which emancipated South Carolinians from the thraldom of an oligarchy which had ruled the State for a century.

That was my greatest work. I taught South Carolinians to know their rights and how to obtain these rights, and the State has made marvelous progress in every way. In education, in some of its aspects, it has progressed more than any of its sister States; for we have Clemson and Winthrop as model schools, the best of their kind, and, if there were less selfishness and more public spirit throughout the State, the lamentable ignorance now existing in some sections would soon disappear. But our common schools in many counties are sadly deficient and must be improved. A democracy without adequate means for educating its citizens is bound to be shipwrecked. We can not afford to let our children grow up like weeds. If we do, ignorance will choke out all that is best in our people and destroy our civilization. The State in self-defense, if for no higher reason, will, somehow or other, have to see to it that all the white children get at least the rudiments of an edu-

cation. Compulsory education is a big question, and I have never heretofore favored it, but acute diseases demand drastic remedies, and if a statute can be framed that will force the white children into school and at the same time give the blacks only the kind of training—manual and industrial—which they can assimilate, it ought to be done. Effective compulsory education will require a great deal of money, but if we are not willing to spend money for our children God pity us. Whether a general law or local option by counties is the best is a matter of opinion and will have to be threshed out by the legislature.

"The people two years ago elected a man governor who has 'run amuck' as it were, and displayed so little realization of his high opportunities that it makes me sad and angry to be told, as I have been more than once, that Tillmanism is the direct cause of Bleaselsm. All thoughtful and intelligent men know that this is only a half truth, and half truths are the worst sort of lies. Tillmanism taught the people that they could whip and destroy special privilege with the ballot. That was a good thing, all must admit. Now, is Tillmanism to blame because the people have used that same ballot with which to elevate a demagogue? Yes, I taught the people that they had a right to govern South Carolina and I proclaim the principle anew. They do have the right, even if they elect a hundred Bleases. 'Teach the people and trust the people.' We will, in the end, have better government at the hands of all the people than we would have if any one class ruled. The people will rectify their blunders as soon as they have become convinced of their error.

"It would be just as true to say that Democracy causes Socialism and anarchy as it would be to say that Tillmanism caused Bleaselsm. Had my health continued good, I would have taught the people the folly of Bleaselsm two years ago, pointed out the difference and stemmed the tide which Jones found himself unable to cope with. I would have guided the Tillmanites, while Blease only misled them, and all for the gratification of his own selfish ambition.

"A large per cent of those who two years ago and now are yelling 'law and order,' want a law and order of their own contriving. They are not ready to admit that, politically speaking, all white South Carolinians are equal. They think themselves divinely commissioned to rule everybody else, and this, no Tillmanism, is the true cause of Bleaselsm. The plain people saw this resurrected bourbonism and, thinking it was the old 'ring' come to life again, took Bleaselsm in preference to it. Blease himself is a mere symptom. The real fever is bigotry, political intolerance and social injustice. I call upon you, my fellow citizens, you who know and claim to want better and higher things, to broaden your sympathies. Stop prating about 'law and order' and treat your next door neighbor with a little more consideration. Though he live in a hovel, though he never saw the inside of a school room, he has the same right to vote for Blease that you have to vote against him, and you have no more right to question his motive than he has to question yours. Learn that great truth, act on it to the uttermost, and my word for it, Bleaselsm will disappear—and it will not disappear until you do learn it.

"Then, too, a certain class of our fellow citizens have been very unjust and unreasonable in their dealing with the poorer people, treating them with no consideration whatever and showing a contempt for them. This is especially true with regard to those who work in the cotton mills. In many communities the people in the mill villages are a class apart, looked down upon and not associated with. No wonder Socialism and the I. W. W. are getting a foothold among these citizens of ours. It was not so once, and it ought not to be so now. We all should address ourselves to the remedy lest it bring dire disaster upon the commonwealth, for in the last analysis white unity is absolutely essential for the continuation of good government. If these poor men are trampled under foot as they have been taught to believe they are, they will join with any movement, no matter how radical and ultra, to get revenge. This is the secret of Blease's hold on the people who work in the cotton mills, and we ought by every means in our power break that hold by showing the same respect and consideration for them that we do for others.

"As for those who compare Blease the man with Tillman the man, they are, for want of a better term, what I may call maliciously ignorant. Blease and Tillman are both popular idols and there the resemblance ends. I had definite ends to accomplish; my personal character and private life were always above reproach and my integrity was never questioned save by a few slanderers who merely asserted without attempting to prove,

There is just enough similarity between Blease and Tillman to deceive the ignorant and furnish a bludgeon to the vicious.

"I do not believe Gov. Blease ought to be sent to the United States senate, because he is not worthy of the honor, and so believing I would be recreant to the people of South Carolina if I did not say so. But do not misunderstand me. I speak as a citizen merely and I fully realize and recognize the right of the humblest man in South Carolina to differ with me. A man's ballot is his own and no other man has a right to criticize him for using it as he chooses.

"I am too near the grave to tell any lies, if I ever had the inclination to do so; I have nothing to gain by speaking; hence there is no selfishness in my utterances. But I love the State which has honored me so long and in such a marked degree and I want to warn our people—those who will listen to me—before it is too late. I repeat, there is absolutely no element of personality or selfishness in it. All my ambitions—and I thank God they were all worthy ones—have been satisfied. Therefore, I speak, as it were, from a mountain top, looking down upon my fellows, who in a few years must follow me to the grave. If ever a man's utterance ought to cause the people to pause and listen and think, mine should. For all essential purposes I speak as one who is dead. If I allowed selfishness to influence me, I would quietly work to have Blease sent here because there is nothing more certain than this: While Woodrow Wilson is president Blease will get no recognition in the way of patronage whatever. I have had little or none, but I would have it all hereafter with Blease as a colleague. If a Republican should follow Wilson, Blease might in a way duplicate or repeat my attitude towards Cleveland, who did not recognize the Tillmanites in South Carolina as Democrats at all. If the unhappy difference among our people in South Carolina shall continue and Bleaselsm becomes the dominant factor in the State, Blease might in time play the role of Mahone in Virginia. All signs, however, point to the triumphant reelection of President Wilson and the continuance of the Democratic party in power.

"There is one striking thing about Gov. Blease as a leader and a statesman to be very seriously considered. It seems to have been lost sight of up to this time. He has been in public life since 1890. He came to the front the same year I did. If he is such a great leader now, more worthy to be followed than Tillman, more worthy of admiration and trust, how has he succeeded all these years in hiding it? What has he ever done in a constructive way to benefit the people of South Carolina? Let those who are his sponsors answer. I have demonstrated my statesmanship and ability to lead in a dozen ways. Without even mentioning what I have done in Washington as a senator, I have many monuments to my credit in South Carolina—Clemson and Winthrop in an educational way, the constitutional convention, which relieved the people of the State of the menace of negro domination by the organic law under which we live, the primary system of choosing candidates and the despised and slandered dispensary, which only failed because the corrupt politicians in the legislature got hold of it and the anti-Tillmanites egged them on to destroy it. But in spite of all their machination and cunning, it still survives locally in many counties. All these are largely my handiwork. In God's name, let those who were formerly Tillmanites but now Blease shouters, show what Blease has done of a similar character. They can not do it and they owe it to themselves to pause and analyze things and recover their reason—if they can. They can undo some of the wrongs they have perpetuated and restore the State's good name which Blease has made a byword and a hissing. The 25th of August will tell the story and I watch the result with confidence."

The enrollment in Clarendon is a little larger this year than the vote of two years ago, notwithstanding the fact that the territory in Salem cut off and annexed to Williamsburg carried with it about 40 votes. The largest vote polled in the primary two years ago was 2,140 and the enrollment this year shows 2,172, increased by 32, add this to the 40 votes cut off and gone to Williamsburg and the increase would have been 72. Then there are a number of voters who failed to comply with the requirements, these will not be able to vote. If the enrollment has increased all over the State in proportion considering population, the vote in the coming primary will be considerably larger than it was two years ago. Then it was said the boxes were stuffed and flagrant frauds were practiced, but should the vote be increased this year as is probable, some other excuse will have to be found by the defeated.—Manning Times.

CHILDREN'S PLAY GROUNDS.

BIG ATTENDANCE AT OPENING EXERCISES AND MUCH INTEREST SHOWN.

Children Well Pleas'd with Place and Have Enjoyable Day—Grounds Presented to City by Mrs. Solomons—Interesting Talks Made by Maj. Robertson and Supt. Edmunds.

A very interesting and pleasing occasion was the opening of the children's playgrounds at the corner of Main and Bartlett streets yesterday afternoon, an interesting crowd of several hundred persons, over half of whom were children, being present to attend the exercises and to show their appreciation of this step which was being taken for the pleasure and benefit of the children of the city.

The exercises were brief, but appropriate and were of an interesting nature. Mrs. Nina Solomons, as president of the Civic League, made the presentation of the grounds to the city, and Maj. W. F. Robertson, City Manager, made the speech of acceptance. Prof. S. H. Edmunds in fitting words showed the advantage to the children of having the playgrounds and thanked the ladies of the Civic League for their work in behalf of the children. The exercises were brought to a close by a maypole dance by a dozen of the pretty little girls of the town.

At the time appointed for the exercises to begin, there had gathered on the grounds probably about three hundred children and two hundred of the older people of the city. Rev. J. P. Marion of the First Presbyterian Church opened the exercises with prayer. Mrs. Solomons then on behalf of the Civic League, which had furnished the grounds with apparatus, told of the needs of the children of the city, as seen by the members of the Civic League, who had entered upon plans for securing money to equip the grounds. Several lots had

been offered by patriotic citizens, but this one had been accepted from Dr. Archie China as the most suitable. In order to secure funds the dog and pony show was given and the profits had been expended in providing the apparatus already installed, which would be added to from time to time as the League had money for this purpose. Mrs. Solomons pointed out the need of a other such playground in the western part of the city, saying that she hoped in time one might be established there for the many children in the neighborhood.

Maj. W. F. Robertson referred to the children as the builders of the future State, saying that by right training and education they would make this State a better place than it was today. In a few well chosen words he accepted the grounds for the city.

Prof. S. H. Edmunds was glad of a place where the children might build up their bodies and that such a place had been established for their enjoyment. For the children he expressed his gratification and the sense of appreciation at this gift from the Civic League. The children showed their appreciation at the close of his remarks by their united applause.

The exercises were then closed with the maypole dance, a very pretty performance.

During the exercises, before and after them the smaller children and some of the larger ones were deriving a great deal of pleasure and enjoyment from the various play apparatus. The swings were kept going, the joggling boards went up and down, see-saw boards did their part and all of the other apparatus were loaded with children, showing their appreciation by their actions more than words could describe.

Congress Will Adourn Soon.
Washington, Aug. 17.—Adjournment of congress may take place in a few weeks if the strict administration program is adhered to, said President Wilson today.

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