

voters of South Carolina, however, said they endorsed my course. But, gentlemen, there has been a great deal of hard work and worry in it all and there has been no pleasure in it, except in seeing the poor fellows free—there is a wonderful pleasure in that. Many cases have been brought before me in which I had to refuse clemency, and, with all that has been said about me—if you will pardon a personal reference—sometimes I have gone to the window and turned my back to my office and looked up the street when the mother and little children were pleading, and when I knew my duty, and that I had to say "no." It is a serious duty and a grave responsibility, and I am satisfied there will never be a true man governor for any length of time who would not welcome relief from some of the responsibility. Of this, however, I treat more fully in a message to the senate, transmitting my reasons for pardons, and I shall not enlarge upon it here. But I want to impress upon you that if you are going to have a pardon board, you should pay the members a sufficient salary that they may give their time and attention to it. The members of the present board, to my own knowledge, have made personal and financial sacrifices to do the work I have placed in their hands within the last year; yet they, too, have been abused for recommending clemency in certain cases, when they were performing only a patriotic duty, for all men know they were certainly not performing a duty which paid them, financially or otherwise—the only hope of reward which they can expect is that which the God of Justice and of Mercy will give them for paying careful attention to cries of the widow and the oppressed, and for listening to "the least of these."

Trusts and Combinations.

I desire, gentlemen, to call to your attention once again the cotton mill mergers of this State, and ask that you take some definite action in regard thereto, and I respectfully refer you to my message upon this subject, House Journal, 1912, page 148; Senate Journal, 1912, page 155. My predictions therein are already being fulfilled. In the recent primary election men were threatened and attempts were made by the heads of these mill mergers to intimidate them; and I am reliably informed that, since the election, men have been dismissed from their jobs because they did not vote to suit the "bosses." The matter is for you—to use a somewhat inelegant, but forcible expression, it is "up to you." It is not impossible that some day, unless action is taken even some of you may be the sufferers and then no doubt you would wish that action had been taken.

I desire to call your attention also to other trusts and combinations, particularly the Carolina Public Service Corporation, that is buying all the ice plants throughout this State. This is a violation of the law. These ice plants are being bought simply and solely for the purpose of creating a monopoly; shutting out all the independent plants; raising the price of ice to whatever figure they desire to put it, and saying to the people, sick or well, "Pay this or do without."

I thought the attorney general would take some action in regard to these matters, under the law, but nothing has been done, and I now call upon you to take some steps before these corporations have so far stuck their fangs into the people that it will be impossible to get them out.

See Section 13, Article 9, Constitution of South Carolina, 1895.

Exclusive Franchises.

I desire to call your attention to the evil of any town, city, county or State giving any exclusive rights, privileges, or franchises to any corporation or individual. We see the pernicious effects of this now. When a town or city places her water system, light system, street car system, telephone or telegraph system in the hands of one corporation, under an exclusive franchise, the result often is, that if you are without water you can not force them to hurry repairs and you cannot get it elsewhere; if you are without light the same is true; if the telephone company or telegraph company gives you poor service and you make complaint you are ignored, because you have nowhere else to go, and you are bound by their special privileges. When any town or city places herself under one system of public service, to the exclusion of others, after the experience of towns and cities all over the country, it deserves to have poor public service facilities. I respectfully recommend that you pass an act annulling all exclusive franchises heretofore granted in South Carolina, and forbidding any exclusive franchise in the future. The towns and cities belong to the State; the town government or the city government is but a subdivision of the general State government; the people of the towns and

cities are citizens of the State, and if the town council or city council will not protect its citizens, then it is your duty to step in and protect them. If you do not think I am right on this matter, I simply refer you to some town or city where one corporation or one individual controls the lighting plant or the water plant, or both; or where one system controls the telephone or telegraph lines, or both; or where one system controls the street car lines or other quasi public enterprises or public service system; or where one corporation or individual has an exclusive franchise of all these things.

I noted a most ridiculous occurrence before the Railroad Commission recently in a telephone hearing. The people's side of the case was represented, or supposed to be represented, by an attorney who is a leading counsel for the Western Union Telegraph Company, when everybody knows that the Western Union Telegraph company and the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph company are one and the same corporation, or one controlled and owned by the other, operating as such, interdependently. Still the Railroad Commission, I presume, knew what it was doing. I leave it to the people of that particular town as to whether they got any relief or not.

Tax on Water Powers.

I respectfully recommend that you pass an act requiring all corporations in this State that are using the water power of the State to pay a tax or license therefor. Dams have been built and are being built across nearly all of the streams of South Carolina that have any water power that can be profitably utilized. This water power belongs to the people of the State. It is being harnessed, so to speak, and used to run machinery for a few corporations which are making millions of dollars out of it, and the people of the State—the taxpayers—are not receiving one dollar's benefit therefrom. Other countries tax companies or individuals for the use of their water powers, and there is no good reason why South Carolina should not do so, and every reason why she should. It would be a source of much revenue to us; it would not hurt those who are using this power; and it would be but fairness and justice to all concerned. I, therefore, most earnestly urge you to place this tax or license upon each and every one of the individuals or corporations that are using these water powers in generating electricity, running machinery, or otherwise—not to be harsh upon them, but to be fair to the general taxpayers. These corporations are ruining our rivers—absolutely destroying them forever, so far as navigation is concerned; injuring the lands below the dams by almost actually drying up the rivers in some places; receiving large returns therefrom, and not paying one cent for the use of that water power. It is not right, and it is your duty to correct it.

I am reliably informed that the powerful, gigantic dam, which is now being constructed across Broad river at Parr Shoals, is not to be provided with a draw. This should be required, because the United States Government is now spending money to make Broad River navigable, and a great fight is being carried on to complete the Columbia Canal, and if these things should be accomplished, this Parr Shoals dam would forever stand as a menace and hindrance to the use of this river. Now, while the dam is in its infancy, the parties controlling its construction should be made to change their plans so as to provide such draw. I am also informed that there is no provision made by which the fish from the low-country streams, or even from the ocean, can go north of this dam, thus depriving the people north of the dam, in the upper part of Carolina, from the benefits of fishing in the stream which they otherwise would have as a result of the migration of fish from the ocean and low-country waters.

I can but call these matters to your attention, gentlemen. It is for you the mighty corporations to control.

Rate of Interest.

I respectfully recommend that you pass an act reducing the legal rate of interest in this State to 6 per cent. There would be a good deal of complaint about this, possibly. But when you place your money in a savings bank you only receive 4 per cent. Bankers boast of the fact that they can borrow money in the North at 2 1/2 and 3 per cent. If they can borrow it at 2 1/2 and 3 per cent, most assuredly they can make money lending it at 6 per cent. Look at the magnificent buildings the banks are erecting—their great skyscrapers. Look at the immense dividends they are declaring. They vie with each other in displaying in large letters in the newspapers the amount of dividends they are paying, and herald to the world that they are making money and prospering. We are all glad to note this prosperity,

but, gentlemen, they should share some of it with their customers, and not keep it all within their own pockets. For, after all, it is their customers' money which is the foundation of their prosperity; and I would urge upon you the wisdom of reducing the legal rate of interest in this State from 7 to 6 per cent.

Exchange on Checks.

I also recommend that you pass an act prohibiting any bank from charging its regular customers exchange on any draft or check passing through the bank. My reason for this, gentlemen, is simple and plain. A man comes to Columbia from some other point in the State; he does some trading and gives a perfectly good check on his home bank; the merchant who accepts that check, or the hotel proprietor, or other person, carries it to his regular bank and deposits it, and the bank charges him for sending that check to the home bank and getting the money on it, when it doesn't cost the bank a cent to do so, and when that bank is getting the benefit of the deposit. They say, "Oh, but we are in the clearing house, and have to do it." Then, gentlemen, if the clearing house is a merger of banks it is in violation of our law, and the attorney general should take steps to break it up. But you should pass an act stopping the banks from taking money from the pockets of the people on every little pretense and pretext. And I hope that those of you who own stock in banks, or are attorneys for banks, will let that fact be known when you argue against this proposition, so that your fellow-members may know why you are opposing it.

Return Money on C. O. D. Packages.

I also respectfully recommend that you pass an act prohibiting express companies from charging for returning money collected on C. O. D. packages. Any of you can see the injustice of such charge by an express company. A package comes to you C. O. D.; you could send your check in payment of it; you could give the company the money for it; but they require you to pay an exorbitant price for them to return your money, or they will refuse to give you your package. It is simply a "hold-up," and you should not allow it.

Flat Two-Cents Passenger Rate.

I respectfully recommend, as I have done in my messages heretofore, and as I advocated on the floor of the house of representatives when a member of that body, and on the floor of the senate when a member of the senate, and on the public rostrum as a candidate, that you pass an act making a flat rate of 2 cents per mile for passengers on all railroads in this State. No doubt some who have not heretofore favored this position, who now think that it is popular, will be very vigorous in their support of it—possibly wanting to be elected to some other office, or re-elected to what they have, and, having reached the conclusion that it is a popular platform, they are now ready to jump on it and say they did it, as a matter of fact, many of us have been working on it for years, and it has simply come to the point now where it is thought that it will win. Whether the credit for it, be properly placed or not, the main consideration is what is best for the people of the State. The railroads are making money; they are prospering. Of that I am glad. I would not, under any circumstances or conditions, wish to injure a railroad. Many of the engineers, conductors, flagmen, and other employees of the railroads are my best friends, and I fully realize that if you cripple the railroads financially it will injure these men; but such an act would not cripple the railroads, I fully realize also that it will be urged that the railroads will say to these men, "Oh, yes, your legislature did this and so, Mr. Engineer; we have to reduce your salary." "Mr. Conductor, Mr. Flagman, we have to reduce your salary." We do not want to do anything that will injure these people. But they are protected by their labor unions, and, unlike us, they can make the railroad come to their terms, because the railroads have got to have them.

Now, gentlemen, this is no unfair proposition. If the railroads can sell me a mileage book for twenty dollars because I have the money to pay for it, there is absolutely no reason on earth why they should not sell any citizen a ticket for two cents per mile. I do not believe in your mileage books; I do not believe they ought to be torn on trains; I do not believe they ought to be accepted for tickets; I do not believe you ought to have any; and I hope you will not pass any law relating to that abominable and foolish system. But reach all the people. Say to the poorest man, who is only going a mile, "You can go for two cents;" or, if he has to go 50 miles, "You can go for a dollar;" and say to the rich man, "You can't have any privileges that the poor man can't have." That is democ-

racry, and we claim to be Democrats. The railroads say, "Oh, we have to put on ticket collectors." For what? Gentlemen, it is the merest subterfuge. Here is a railroad company that says to you, "Here is our conductor; put your wife on this train with your children, or, if you please, put your 16- or 18-year-old daughter on this train; she is safe in the hands of our conductor; he will take care of her; he will protect her;" and yet, in the same breath, that railroad company says to you, "Pay your fare or give your ticket to a collector; we can't trust our conductor." Mind you, gentlemen—can't trust the conductor with their money, and yet saying to you, "Trust your wife and your children, or your daughter or your sister, with him; trust that which is dearer than all things else on this earth to you with this man"—when the railroad can't trust him with its money. If the railroad can't trust him with their money, what right have they to ask you to trust him with the safety of your family?

I hold in my hand a book costing \$5, good for two hundred and fifty miles over the Piedmont Traction company, in the upper part of this State. This mileage is taken up on the train; upon it baggage is checked, and it can be used by any member of the holder's family, or by any person who has it when he gets on the train. Now, if we are going to have mileage books, which I do not favor, then let us have a mileage book such as the one I have referred you to. If the interurban can have it, there is surely no reason why the railroads can not have it.

But, gentlemen, give your people a flat two-cents rate; and those of you who favor it, when the bill is called up, if the author of the bill, who has it in charge, gets up and says, "Pass it over," you get up and ask why. It is usually considered courtesy to allow the author of the bill to handle it, and when he rises in his seat and says, "Mr. President," or "Mr. Speaker, pass this bill over," it is customary for others to say nothing. But I warn you to watch and see that when these bills are reached in their regular places on the calendars, no matter who requests it, they are not put off until the last days of the session and then crowded out. But let some of your number favorable to them get up and force the fight; for not always are authors of bills their best friends.

Capital and Labor.

Labor and capital have been working most harmoniously and pleasantly together.

I was called upon to take action with regard to a strike that was going on in Augusta, Georgia, which some people thought would be brought into this State because the corporation was operating cars in the county of Aiken. I took the matter up with some close and valued personal friends in the "Horse Creek Valley," who kept me in close touch with the situation. I was asked to order out the militia. This I flatly declined to do, and advised the railway men to put their cars in their sheds, and not run them from Georgia into South Carolina. The situation became tense. Letters and telegrams, and sometimes personal conferences, were brought to bear; but I stood firm in my position, did not order out the militia, and pleaded with my friends—and I am glad to say that I have many true ones in the "Horse Creek Valley"—not to violate any of the laws of the State, but to stand, in an orderly manner, to what they believed were their rights. Arbitration was had; peace was restored; all is well. I would not have had a repetition in South Carolina of the Augusta soldiers shooting down innocent men for all the railroads in the American Union.

Another strike in the city of Columbia came on. I asked the newspaper reporters to say to the head of the corporation that I had heard the corporation was going to bring strike-breakers into the city, and politely but firmly requested that such course be not taken. I am glad to say it was not done. I had a conference with some of my friends—the conductors and motormen who work for the company, to the number of 112 out of 114, were my political friends; not one thing would I have done to injure them or to injure their chances of receiving better pay; and if strike-breakers had been put upon the cars, I would have had every one of them arrested and put in the county jail or State penitentiary, under that section of the constitution which says that such forces shall not be brought into our State. However, it was not done. The employees stood firm; went to church; went around attending to their matters of pleasure, laughing and talking and keeping in good humor; and they brought the wealthy corporation to terms. Once again arbitration came in; peace was restored; all is well.

Again, a strike threatened in the city of Charleston caused some parties there to get very much worried and uneasy. I was called on for advice and assistance. I sent one of your

members, the Hon. John T. Miller—a manly man, a true friend to the laboring man, and an honest Carolinian—as my special representative, to the city of Charleston. He visited and conferred with the officials of the street railway company and the officials of the labor unions, and, by his clear judgment, brought about an understanding; an amicable agreement was reached, and the sound of the gong was not stilled. Again, with cool heads, good judgment, and the spirit of "live and let live," prevailing, peace was restored, and all is well.

I do not wish to be egotistical, and you will pardon me for saying that in all three of these instances I believe that the confidence the laboring men had in me as their friend had very much to do with averting trouble and bringing about adjustments fair and reasonable to all parties. I am proud that the laboring men feel that I am their friend. I am their friend, and I prize their friendship and their confidence.

Torrens Land System.

I have not had the opportunity to give this question that serious and careful consideration which it deserves, and, therefore, I am not in position to give you any information in regard to it or to make a recommendation as to it. During the campaign the past summer, when my opponent was loudly proclaiming from stump to stump that he favored the Torrens Land System, I kept quiet upon the subject. I was elected.

But there is a matter which I desire to call to your attention; and that is the ownership of land. The fearfully high price that is now being paid for farming lands can not, in my opinion, last, but if it should, it is going absolutely to deprive the poor man of owning land, and in a few years will create in this country a system of landlordism akin to feudalism, and which will be oppressive to the great masses of the people, putting the poor man at great disadvantage.

Another matter which our white people ought to give their serious consideration to is that of selling so much of our real estate to the negro race. This is a menace which can now be easily averted; but I fear, if the practice is kept up, that in a few years we are going to find ourselves facing a very serious situation in dealing with the negro landowner. What remedy should be applied is a matter which I can not discuss too freely, for fear the timid-hearted will say, "He is stirring up strife and race prejudice." But I call it to your attention, and ask you to give it your very earnest consideration.

Relief of Storm Sufferers.

I respectfully recommend that you exempt from taxation all the personal property and real estate of the citizens of that part of York county who suffered from a terrible storm which visited that community during the past summer. These people were left almost destitute; their crops were completely destroyed, and their condition was very grave. I think it would be but fair to give them this small relief, and I most respectfully and earnestly ask that you do so.

Enforcement of Law.

I have been very much hampered in my efforts in enforcement of law and order by some of those who, instead of being a hindrance, should have joined hands with me and been a strong legal and moral force in helping me. The county supervisors and county commissioners of the various counties are directed, under Section 840, Vol. II, of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, to pay for the services of constables when appointed to enforce the whiskey laws in their counties. But, by the obstinacy of these officials in some of the counties, and their absolute refusal to obey the law, I have been unable to appoint men to serve as constables in those counties in order to assist the sheriffs in keeping down the illicit sale of liquor. As a consequence I am free to say to you that I do not believe there is a county in the State which has no blind tigers in it—white men selling whiskey, negroes selling whiskey, and, in many instances, white men backing the negroes and having the negroes acting as retailers for them. I have been helpless because county officials would not pay constables appointed by me to do this work. My hands have been tied, to a large extent.

But I have had, if possible, an even greater hindrance. Under the law appropriating \$5,000 for the enforcement of law, I appointed as detectives the Rev. C. W. Creighton and Col. Leon M. Green, two men who would never have been suspected of doing detective work. They were doing a great deal of good, giving me quietly information which I conveyed to the proper officials, and in this way doing much to stop the illicit sale of whiskey in many places. The comptroller general, however, stepped in between me and the enforcement of law and refused to pay the claims for their services; it was made public

throughout the entire State that they were State detectives, and their usefulness was very much impaired—so much so that both have tendered their resignations and quit the service. Of course, when it became generally known that these two men were in this business the violators of the law were then on the watch for them. I thought then and think now that I was exceptionally fortunate in getting two such men to do this work. But the comptroller general set his judgment up against mine, whose duty it was to exercise judgment in these matters, and in open, bold defiance of the law refused to pay the claims of these men, and refused to pay other claims for similar service, which claims should have been paid in his office. Why the comptroller general should have taken such course I am at a loss to understand; for I certainly feel that it was his duty to help me enforce the law, instead of standing between the violators of the law and myself, when I was trying to do my duty. I say that I am at a loss to account for his course—I should have modified this by saying, "except upon the theory that he has allowed the political differences between us to influence the discharge of his public duties, knowing that he had at his back a partisan attorney general, who was my pronounced and bitter personal and political enemy (and who, by the way, the people of South Carolina have repudiated and retired to private life). Setting himself up as a constitutional lawyer, backed by the State's attorney general, whose assistance also I should have had, the comptroller general refused to pay these just claims incurred in the effort to enforce the law. Of course, I have been charged with and blamed for non-enforcement of the law. But I want you to understand the situation, so that you may know if the county supervisors and commissioners had paid my constables, and the comptroller general had paid my detectives, I would have had matters in very much better shape.

These differences and clashes, gentlemen, have been very unpleasant to me, for I have tried to do my duty, and I regret that so much illegal sale of whiskey is being carried on throughout our State. I am glad to say, however, that when I explained these matters to the people upon the rostrum they did not blame me, but endorsed me by re-electing me governor, while some of those who have opposed me were defeated, and others would have been if good men had placed themselves in the race and given the people an opportunity to retire to private life those who have stood between blind tigers and the enforcement of the law.

If you will pass a law giving me the right to appoint five men, scattered in different parts of the State, who shall receive the \$5,000 now appropriated for enforcement of law, I can use these men by sending them wherever complaints are made and maintain a much more rigid enforcement of the law than we have today. However, I want to ask you, if you make any provision for the appointment of constables or State detectives, or if you provide any appropriation, as you have been doing, for payment of the expense incurred in enforcement of the law, that you insert a proviso making it clearly mandatory that the comptroller general shall issue his warrant payable to such parties and upon such claims as the governor shall approve, letting him understand that he has neither the right nor the discretion to turn down claims which are approved by me along this line, and thus annoy and hinder me, as he has done during the past 12 months.

Concealed Weapon Law.

I respectfully recommend that you repeal the law against carrying weapons, or that you amend it by authorizing the clerk of court of each county to license persons making application to him, and upon payment of a fee of \$5, to carry a pistol for such length of time as the said clerk may fix, not to exceed thirty days under any one license. My reason for this is that the present law is a farce. You know this; it is common knowledge. Negroes and some others habitually carry pistols, and then when they get into a difficulty they shoot down the law-abiding citizen, who is unarmed and not in position to take care of himself against the coward. It would be a good idea also, in my judgment, to require the clerk of court to publish the names of the licensees, and to increase the punishment for violation of the law, providing that a person convicted of carrying a concealed weapon without a license be imprisoned for 12 months at hard labor, without a fine, and applying the receipts from license fees to the special enforcement of this law, in addition to the regular machinery of the law which we now have. I further recommend that you make the same punishment of imprisonment without the alternative of a fine apply to those convicted of selling pistols. I