

Organization And Work of The Red Shirts Of S. C.

Dan S. Henderson, of Aiken, S. C. (The Charleston News and Courier.)

The Reconstruction Era. In 1865 the National Democratic Convention, which met in New York, nominated as standard-bearers Horatio Seymour and Franklin P. Blair; the Republicans nominated U. S. Grant and Andrew Johnson.

A tremendous mass meeting was held in Charleston on Meeting street in front of the Charleston Hotel to inaugurate the democratic nominations.

Gen. M. C. Butler, then an attorney at Edgewood, being called to defend the two young men, was present at the trial and took part in that fight; and with Col. A. P. Butler, afterwards a senator from Aiken county, were the leaders of the whites in the battle.

At the instance of Governor Chamberlain, warrants were issued for several hundred white men, among them Gen. and Col. Butler, for complicity in this matter, charging murder and riot. It meant in truth the arrest of the entire community.

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he did not want the nomination; to think well before acting; that there were others whose names would do more good, but that if they said he must lead, that for the sake of the old state, he would do so. He left the hall in a few moments, the unanimous nomination was made. History had a bright page written in its book. The convention adjourned for the day. The handwriting was written on the wall of radicalism, carpetbaggism and scalawagism; it was in the air, mense, tekel, euphrasin.

The radical leaders had crowded in the corridors during the secret session Nash, Elliott, Corvone and the steel. Tim Hurley rushed in and felt the density of the atmosphere.

No night session was held, but there was no sleep in the city on the Congaree that night. Two forces were at work. Without attracting attention, away up yonder in cotton town a torch-light procession was formed, long and sinuous it passed down Main street and came to the government building, its oriflammé was recognized in the person of that knight, Col. Alexander Cheves Haskell. He rode a coal black steed and wore an immaculate white suit with a black sash.

Those were not the days of electricity, of telephones, of trains of night messages, and of automobiles, but the heart to heart message of the Anglo-Saxon was sent from Caesar's Head to the Battery; from the tawney Savannah to the red washed Pee-Dee, which produced an uprising, the like of which will never again be witnessed in South Carolina.

The merchants had to buy extra invoices of red flannel to clothe the marching patriots. Every county, every town, every township, every hamlet, became a red-hot bed of patriotism and enthusiasm. It was no class of caste fight; the rich and poor alike vied with each other to do something. The stalwart and young rode and showed their power; the old encouraged them and gave them money. The great silent power was the love and devotion of the women to the cause. They joined it now for show and display; not simply to be glorious and wear ribbons, (they did that fully because they were not afraid to show their colors), but to work for the cause.

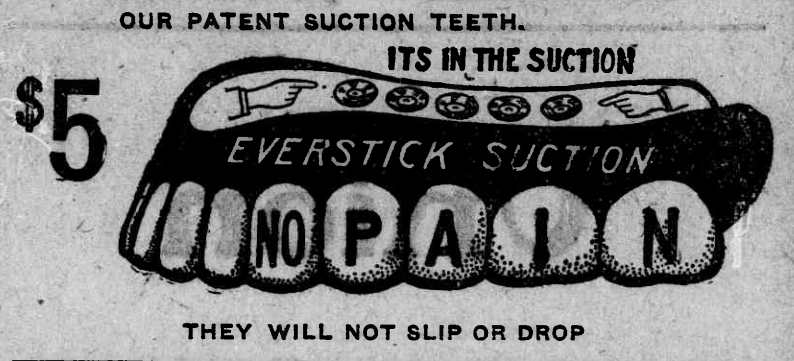
And so the popular feeling bubbled up as Hampton passed from the up-country to the low-country; from the highlands to the lowlands, adown the Grampan Hills. It was like a Scottish fight in which all the clans were united and taking part; the McDonalds and the McGregors alike. When the red banner was waved before Columbia, the uprising was as great as in Anderson or in Newberry. Business was suspended, homes abandoned, occupations given up for the time being; lawyers closed their offices and led, preachers prayed and their goods cheaper to be people and give their money; farmers and mechanics and artisans left their occupation and were in the saddle. All were in it and to stay to the end, for it meant liberty or death. A paraphrase of the Colonial lines truly expresses the Red Shirt determination.

"They left the plowshare in the mold, The flocks and herds without a fold, The sickle in the unshorn grain, The corn half garnered on the plain; And mustered in their red shirt dress, For wrongs, to seek a stern redress, To right those wrongs, come weal, come woe, or o'ercome their foes."

When Hampton reached Blackville in Barnwell county, he was met by a consirt of Red Shirts from all the surrounding counties headed by that peerless citizen, Hohnson Hagood, and they trumped with him across the great country almost to the sea. The spirit of that procession is spoken of unto today, as the greatest event of old Barnwell county.

Unity, union and massive determination had come to the convention. It was near 5 o'clock, Hampton, who had stood apart and up to this time had opened his mouth, except to vote for the Straightout movement, arose in the back of the hall. Tall, rather slim (then), neatly dressed, quiet and cool, and unassuming, he strode to the front; held up his hand and said: "His voice was like a silver cornet; his words were forceful and potent. Rob- ert Aldrich, of Barnwell, an original

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Supreme Court in Capitol City

Special to The News.
Raleigh, Sept. 27.—In the supreme court there was the argument on appeal of the case of State vs. L. M. Sandlin, from Wilmington, Tuesday, in which Sandlin is under sentence to be electrocuted for the murder of his wife in Wilmington, he having gone to the boarding house his wife was running after having forced her to leave him and take her children because of crime where women are and shot her down. There were three wounds either of which was fatal. He then slightly wounded himself in the head with his revolver. In closing his argument for the trial and sentence of death in the court below to stand Attorney General T. W. Bickett made this magnificent appeal, "the record in this case registers another victim to that dark spirit of crime which is stalking through the land slaying our women or dragging them down to a ruin that is worse than death. The supreme tragedy of life in the immolation of woman. With a heavy hand nature wrings from her a high tax of blood and tears. Have men become brutes that know no pity? Is motherhood no longer holy? Is our civilization to go down in a carnal of crime where women are butchered like sheep in the shambles? Verily I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but it seems to me that to this man the electric chair would hold the least of horrors. As he sits in his lonely cell can he banish the vision of the woman who in the days of her youth put her hand in his and, with a faith that knew no fear, followed all a followed him? Can he ever forget that momentous hour when this woman, with a smile of ineffable tenderness, went down in the alley of the shadow of death, in order that his child might live? And then can he for one second, cease to hear her scream of terror as she fled from his bloody hand?"

The gathering of the investigating committee from congress seeking for evidence to sustain Chamberlain, and the unrest to furnish for our side the evidence of the right, the quartering of the United States soldiers in the State House and their efforts by show of arms to intimidate our people; the dragging of the Ellenton prisoners into the United States court at Charleston and an attempt thereby to expose the movement of the democrats in the campaign. These and other subjects would take volumes to fill them and they are left for another time, or for other pens. Finally Hayes was inaugurated; Hampton was recognized; amnesty was granted federal and state prisoners, and the people began to settle down to peace.

It would take volumes to tell of the immediate sequel and its trials. The gathering of determined, anxious, tried men in Columbia, bent on enforcing their victory; the supreme control and cool management of Hampton under the trials without number; the dual horses in session; the desertion of the sinking ship of radicalism by the rats; the forbearance and splendid record of the Wallace House; the legal fights in the courts, conducted by Col. Youmans and Gen. Conner.

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When in these times of peace and plenty, the hungry for office quarrel in the democratic primaries to the unrest of the advancing, progressive masses, let that event be pointed to with pride as one in which love of country and liberty was the ruling idea.

Photograph Told the Story.
Chicago, Sept. 26.—A newspaper photograph offered a mute refutation of the oft quoted police statement that there was no gambling in Chicago when presented today to the civil service commission investigating a alleged police collusion with gambling and vice.
The photo was taken just outside the Chicago American League ball park prior to the Gutch-Hackenschmidt wrestling match on Labor Day. It showed a crowd of men surrounding a table in the street and apparently placing money on the table. In the background was at least one policeman.

It is estimated by the state department of agriculture that the tobacco crop in this state this season is about an acreage of 180,000 and yield 450 pounds per acre. Last season there was an acreage of about 215,000 and a yield of 600 pounds to the acre. The lack of seasons for transplanting cut the acreage and continued dry conditions after the planting reduced the yield per acre. Also there was serious inroad by wilt in some important sections of the tobacco belt.
It is about time to bury the dead languages?
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