

AYCOCK'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

New Executive Eloquently Reviews the State's Progress.

CONSERVATIVE AND THOUGHTFUL.

Will Execute The Laws of The State Without Regard to Race or Condition.

Following is the inaugural address of Governor Aycock:

Gentlemen of the General Assembly, Ladies and Fellow-Citizens:

Every four years brings us a change of administration but not always a change of policy. This year we meet under extraordinary circumstances—

one party goes out of power and another comes in; one policy ends and a new one begins; one century passes away and a new century claims our service;

a new constitution greets the new century. For thirty years of the nineteenth century we struggled in every way against the evils of a suffrage based on manhood only.

We found in the first days of that struggle that theory had outrun practice and that reality had yielded place to sentiment.

At that time we had just emerged from an unsuccessful and disastrous war. Our property had been swept away, our institutions had been destroyed, the foundation of our social fabric had been overturned, we were helpless.

A victorious but ungenerous political enemy had crushed us to the earth; they had forced upon us the recognition of those things that we knew could not be reduced to successful practice.

We were poor, weak and defeated. We accepted the situation. We did our best to prove the falsity of our convictions. We endeavored with sincerity to bring the negroes to a realization of the true dignity of full citizenship.

no injustice to the negro. It really benefits him. It does recognize the necessity of having some test of capacity and it prescribes two rules of evidence by which the capacity may be ascertained and declares that any man capable of meeting either test shall vote.

On a hundred platforms, to half the voters of the State, in the late campaign, I pledged the State, its strength, its heart, its wealth, to universal education. I promised the illiterate poor man bound to a life of toil and struggle and poverty that life should be brighter for his boy and girl than had been for him and the partner of his sorrows and joys.

Gentlemen of the General Assembly, will not have ought to fear when you will make ample provision for the education of the whole people.

Rich and poor alike are bound by promise and necessity to approve your utmost efforts in this direction.

The platforms of all the parties declare in favor of a liberal policy towards the education of the masses; notably the Democratic platform says, "We heartily commend the action of the General Assembly of 1899 for appropriating one hundred thousand dollars for the benefit of the public schools of the State, and pledge ourselves to increase the school fund so as to make at least a four months' term in each year in every school district in the State."

Appropriations alone cannot remove illiteracy from our State. With the appropriations must come also an increased interest in this cause which shall not cease until every child can read and write.

national interest throughout the length and breadth of the State. We shall not accomplish this work in a day nor can it be done by many speeches. It is a work of years to be done day by day with a full realization of its importance and with this anxious interest on our part which will stimulate the careless and will make all our people eager to attain the end which we seek.

Our Statesmen have always favored the education of the masses, but heretofore interest in the matter has not approached universality; henceforth in every home there will be the knowledge that no child can attain the true dignity of citizenship without learning at least to read and write.

From this time forth opposition to education will mark a man as opposed to the theory of our government which is founded upon the consent of the governed, and our Constitution provides that this consent is not the distant future can be given only by those who can read and write.

We need have nothing to fear, then, from any party or any politician when we make liberal provisions for education. But if there were opposition our duty would be none the less clear.

It is demonstrable that wealth increases as the education of the people grows. Our industries will be benefited; our commerce will expand; our railroads will do a large business when we shall have educated all the children of the State.

It is, therefore, of the utmost importance from a material point of view that our whole people should be educated. Care must be taken on your part, Gentlemen of the Legislature, to bring the schools in the remotest districts up to the standard of the Constitution which solemnly admonishes you, as it did me, but a moment ago, when I took the oath to support it, that at least four months of school must be carried on in every school district in each year.

franchise the fairness of our elections was never questioned. When the ballot was given to the negro the first election thereafter was known to be a large and a fraud. That election was held under military dictatorship, and the vote was counted in Charleston, South Carolina. We have denounced and ever will denounce that election as fraudulent.

When we came to power in 1876 we changed the election law of the State and from that time to 1894 all elections were held under laws passed by us. Our adversaries charged that these elections were carried by force and fraud.

When they came to power in 1895 they adopted a law which we denounced as providing means for the registration and voting of minors, dead, imported and convicted negroes.

They carried the State under that law in 1896. We beat them in 1898 despite their law and then we passed a new election law which they denounced as designed to thwart will of the people.

We held the election of 1900 under that law. By the result of that election we have eliminated the ignorant negro from those entitled to vote. If what has been charged by the opposing parties be true and elections have been fraudulent and election laws unjustly evaded since the negro came to be registered in the State, it certainly ought to follow that with the disqualification of the ignorant negro the State should return to her ancient ways when no man questioned her integrity.

Henceforth our laws and their administration must be so fair that the civilized world shall recognize the high purpose with which we have wrought to see this day. Let history record of us that we have fought our great fight and won our notable victory with no view to perpetuate ourselves in power but honestly to secure good government founded on intelligence worked out through a perfectly fair election law administered as a sacred trust to be held forever inviolable.

So especially to exercise it wisely. This results in excluding a great number of negroes from the ballot, but their right to life, liberty, property and justice must be even more carefully safeguarded than ever. It is true that a superior race can not submit to the rule of a weaker race without injury; it is also true in the long years of God that the strong can not oppress the weak without destruction.

I said on April 11th, 1900, and I now repeat it as a deep conviction that "universal justice is the perpetual decree of Almighty God, and we are entrusted with power not for our good alone, but for the negro as well. We hold our title to power by tenure of service to God, and if we fail to administer equal and exact justice to the negro whom we deprive of suffrage we shall in the fullness of time lose power ourselves, for we must know that the God who is Love trusts no people with authority for the purpose of enabling them to do injustice to the weak."

Let us serve the State in this spirit and with wisdom and the people will continue to trust us, but if we depart from this plan and just way, power will drop from our hands, for the amendment has, I believe and trust, brought with it a freedom of thought, of criticism and of action that will be swift to withdraw a trust abused.

With the education of the whole people; with a fair and impartial election law, with peace everywhere, there will be nothing to prevent us from working out the high destiny of our State. Thought will be set free, opinion can have its full sway and every man will be able to declare the inmost feelings of his heart.

Our newspapers will have an opportunity to address themselves to moulding public opinion without fear of injury to the State. Discussion can then take the place of abuse and argument will supplant passionate oratory. In this new and freer day we shall grow brighter men. Trust in all things high will come to us unshrud things high will come easy to us. We shall have problems and differences, but we shall have the intelligence to solve the problems and the good spirit to harmonize our differences.

I come to the high task to which the people have called me with many misgivings. I know, if not adequately, something of my weakness and I likewise know, if not to the fullest extent, the many difficulties which will beset my way. I come to the work humbly, with deep anxiety and with an earnest desire to serve the people well. The manner of my coming makes it all the more incumbent upon me to search my heart that I may have no impure motive there; one who has been trusted after such fashion as the people have trusted me owes the highest obligation of uprightness in thought and action. Chosen of my party unanimously, elected by the people by a majority such as has never been given to any other man, I am bound by every obligation to serve to my utmost. The task is a difficult one. I shall make mistakes. When I have done the right thing I shall often then sometimes be misunderstood by my friends who will see my action not from my standpoint as the Governor of the whole people, but from theirs. When I shall have done wrong I shall not expect approval; I do not wish it. I want to know my mistakes to the end that I may correct them, because I am certain that I shall be judged at last by the whole tenor of my administration and by no particular act.

CON. C. B. AYCOCK.

Brief Biography of the State's New Governor.

Charles Brantley Aycock was born near Fremont, Wayne county, North Carolina, November 1st, 1859. His father was a farmer, a man of prominence and influence in his county and held the office of county clerk from the August term 1853 to the May term 1861. He represented the 22nd Senatorial district, then composed of Wayne county only, in the Senate of 1864-'65 and 1865-'66. The Democratic candidate for Governor attended school at Fremont and was prepared for college at Wilson Collegiate Institute, then the leading educational institution of Eastern North Carolina, embracing in its faculty such educators as Elder Sylvester Hassell, L. D., Rev. Jos. H. Foy, L. D., Prof. David G. Gillespie and Prof. E. M. Nadal—four of the best teachers North Carolina has known. In this school, as well as in the primary school near his country home, Mr. Aycock took rank as the most brilliant member of his class, and was always head or next to head. In the debating societies he took great interest and was as a mere boy easily the best debater and speaker. Before he was old enough to write his speeches, old and young were charmed by his talent as a declaimer. During his school days at Wilson, he boarded in the country and walked to and from school every morning and evening. His school mates had faith in his genius and always had confidence that he was endowed with high gifts for some exalted station and high public service.

Mr. Aycock entered the University of the fall term of 1877. He was elected after a hot contest that showed he then had a political wisdom, Chief Marshal in 1878. He graduated in 1880, receiving the Wiley P. Mangum medal for oratory and the Bingham Essayist Medal. He excelled at the University in English, making most reputation as an orator and essayist. He has often said that he had no talent as a mathematician, and got through on Conic Sections by "main strength and awkwardness." He was highly esteemed at the University, being regarded as a youth of uncommon talent, eloquence, purity of life, and sweetness of temper. Every man who was at college with him, who could get to Raleigh at the State convention, was there to see him receive the highest honor the Democratic party has ever conferred upon any man in North Carolina—the compliment of a unanimous nomination for Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth. The class in which Mr. Aycock graduated, was composed of the following, all of whom are now living: Charles B. Aycock, Henry E. Faison, Locke Craig, Alex. L. Phillips, W. R. Slade (Georgia), C. C. Cobb, A. D. Betts, L. C. Vaughan, T. C. Brooks, Thomas H. Battle, A. L. Coble, R. B. Jolt, Robert Ransom, Earnest Baywood.

Mr. Aycock read law at the University under Dr. Kemp P. Battle, and afterwards at Goldsboro under the late A. K. Smedes, and began the practice in Goldsboro in January, 1881, in partnership with ex-State Senator Frank A. Daniels. That partnership was formed when Mr. Aycock and Mr. Daniels were school mates, and is one of the first legal firms in North Carolina. He has held the following public positions: Superintendent of Public Schools of Wayne county in 1881; Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Goldsboro Graded Schools for the past ten years; City Attorney of Goldsboro for two years; County Attorney of Wayne four years; District Elector in 1888; Elector at Large in 1892; U. S. District Attorney 1893 to 1898, and has also been a trustee of the University. Mr. Aycock was married in 1881 to Varina V. Woodard, daughter of Elder Wm. Woodard, of Wilson county, who died in 1890, leaving two children. In 1891 he married Cora L. Woodard, a sister of his deceased wife. He has seven children. The oldest, Charles B. Aycock, Jr., is now a student at the University.

HON. W. D. TURNER.

Sketch of the Life of The Lieutenant Governor.

Wilfred D. Turner, of Iredell county, was born in Iredell county, January 30, 1855. His father, for whom he was named, was a farmer and the pioneer cotton manufacturer in Piedmont North Carolina. Mr. Turner graduated at Trinity College in 1876 and in 1879 the degree of A. M., was conferred on him by his alma mater. After graduation he read law in June, 1877, began to practice in Asheville. He was a palatable, studious, able and conscientious attorney, and his practice grew steadily. In 1885 he formed a partnership with the late Judge Robert F. Armfield, and in 1886, when Judge Armfield went on the bench, Mr. Turner formed a partnership with Mr. Chas. H. Armfield. It is one of the strongest legal firms in Piedmont North Carolina.

Mr. Turner has always been a sterling Democrat and more than once has been chairman of the county executive committee. He has been a leader in his district and in 1898 received a large vote for the nomination for Congress. In 1886 Mr. Turner was elected State Senator from the district composed of Iredell, Alexander and Wilkes, and served successively in the Senate in 1887, 1889, and 1891, being regarded as one of the ablest lawyers, best parliamentarians, and safest legislators in the State. He was chairman of the Judiciary committee and one of the leaders in a body composed of many strong and able men. As a capable, fair and ideal presiding officer, he has no superior in the State. As a legislator, he has had no superior in this decade. He is a just and broad-gauged man, and can always be relied upon to support measures that are for the good of the Commonwealth. He has to a marked degree the courage of his convictions, and did not hesitate in the Legislature to fight all extravagance and all proposed legislation carrying special privilege. His legislative experience will be valuable to him and to his State.

Mr. Turner is not only an able and successful lawyer, but a man of the business qualifications as well. He is president of the Monro Cotton Mill Company, located in Catawba county, in which his brother is secretary and treasurer, and is connected with most of the important enterprises of his county. Mr. Turner was elected Lieutenant Governor in August, 1900, receiving 185,520 votes to 125,532 votes cast for H. F. Seawell, his opponent.

Notes.

The Ohio man who placed his tongue on a frosty rail and narrowly escaped decapitation by an approaching train furnishes a new and thrilling situation for the writers of melodrama.

There were 2,023 marriage licenses issued during 1900 in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. For the same period 66 absolute divorces were decreed by the court. This shows one divorce for every thirty marriages.

The decision of the Philippine Commission is the San Jose Medical College Case unanimously refers the settlement of the question involved in the courts and provides trustees who, with the assistance of the Attorney General of the Philippines will inaugurate and prosecute the litigation. The sum of \$5,000 is appropriated for the expenses of the suit.

The divisions of the Cuban Constitutional Convention have rendered a crystallized report upon the subject of a constitution for the island in twenty-five sections. The document is in many respects similar to our own Constitution. It is believed, however, that two months' discussion will follow the submission of the report, and that great changes will be effected in the form of the Constitution.

Hoax (at the theatre)—"See t'ee three fellows and three girls in the box? They are all engaged." Hoax—"Sort of a match box, isn't it?"

Few people are so busy helping others that they can't stop to help themselves.