

# CENTRAL EXPRESS



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### SOUTH CAROLINA'S ROW.

#### Ben Tillman, the Farmers' Candidate for Governor, Calls the First Families Rats—Red Hot Times, and Hotter Coming—Negroes Helping the Farmers.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Aug. 1.—Never since 1861, has there been so great excitement among the people of this State as now. It may as well be admitted at once that Capt. Tillman and the State Farmers' Association have popular enthusiasm with them. But the straight-out Democrats have at last determined to make a struggle for their political lives, and the fight is not over, by any means. Election does not take place until Nov. 4, and there are three eventful months ahead in which much may be done. No legitimate means will be left untried by the straight-out Democrats to convince the people of the demagoguery of Tillman's propositions, and it is hoped that these means will be successful.

In order that the people of the country outside of South Carolina may fully understand the present political situation in this State, it is necessary to go into history a little. There have been dissensions in the Democratic party here ever since 1876, when General Martin W. Gray, "the old bald eagle of Edgefield," began a revolt. In 1880 he was the candidate in the Democratic State Convention for gubernatorial nominee, but he was beaten by General Johnson Hagood. General Gray died of chagrin, but his friends, many of them farmers, remained, and have ever since been disaffected. Finally, in 1886, they and others, discontented with the rulers of the Democratic party here, organized the State Farmers' Association, in which Capt. B. R. Tillman soon came to the front. The Association spread into every county, and became a disturbing element in every Democratic Convention. March 27 of that year the farmers met in State Convention at Columbia and nominated a full ticket for State officers to be submitted to the regular Democratic State Convention for consideration, pledging themselves to abide by the result of that Convention. The call for this Convention was made by G. W. Shell, President of the Farmers' Association, and was a most bitter arraignment of the Democratic administration of affairs in South Carolina. The nominees were Capt. B. R. Tillman for Governor and Col. J. C. Coit for Lieutenant-Governor. Col. Coit refused to accept the nomination, but Tillman agreed to stump the State.

The canvass of the State ordered by the regular Democratic Executive Committee opened at Greenville on June 10. General John Bratton and Attorney-General Joseph H. Earle appeared as candidates for Governor in opposition to Tillman. An immense audience was present, but mostly from the country. The town people seem to be disgusted with the noise, and stayed away. Tillman was taken out to the speaker's stand in a carriage drawn by four horses and decorated with products of the farm. He was cheered as his carriage passed through the streets, and on his arrival at the place of speaking he was greeted with the wildest yells from his enthusiastic admirers. The other candidates were treated with a coldness that one would expect to be shown to a stranger whose views they disapproved, and not to South Carolinians well known and hitherto greatly respected. General Bratton, the hero of a hundred battles, was listened to with respectful silence, but not a cheer did he receive. When Tillman rose to speak the cheers were deafening. For five minutes he could not make himself heard at all, and through his speech he was interrupted with yells of approval. When General Earle rose to speak he was greeted with cries for Tillman. As he began to attack Tillman and his

methods of getting control of the party he was jeered by Tillman's followers.

When candidates for other places on the ticket rose to announce their candidacy they were asked by the crowd: "Are you for Tillman?" If an affirmative answer was given all was well, but if a negative the poor candidate "had a hard road to travel."

This opening meeting was typical of all the others, only that at each succeeding meeting the excitement and bitterness has grown. It is almost incomprehensible how so many have been held without bloodshed. At several knives and pistols have been drawn but fortunately the row was averted. The danger is great, and many are calling upon the Executive Committee to stop the campaign. The meetings have ceased to be of any good. The speakers cannot appeal to reason on account of the excited feeling of the people. They are wild, and will not hear anything opposed to their views. They try to hoot down the opposition speakers. The campaign has about narrowed down to a running debate between Earle and Tillman, in which personalities takes the place of reason.

The Tillman wing are doing every thing in their power to inflame the passions and prejudices of the rural and ignorant population. Secret circulars are sent all over the State to their secret clubs. One of these has fallen into the hands of the straight-out Democrats, and it is presumed that it is a fair specimen of the others. It reads:

"LAURENS, S. C., June 4.

"DEAR SIR—The defeat of Kolb for Governor of Alabama, by a combination of political tricksters, should teach the friends of Capt. Tillman that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. As they value their lives, liberty, homes and reputation, so should they be ready to guard against the insidious devices of their opponents.

"Every township and neighborhood in the State should be thoroughly organized into Democratic clubs. The officers should be truly loyal to the platform of principles enunciated by the March Convention.

"The battle cry of 'Anybody to beat Tillman' must be kept constantly in view, and every voter must be at his post first, last and all the time to convert this hoped-for result, and none must be permitted to pass unless they are properly vouched for."

Both sides have indulged in some wild talk about a split and an appeal to the negro. Tillman has been endorsed by the colored Farmers' National Alliance and colored Union. The Pee Dee Alliance of Bennettsville has published the following resolutions:

"We, the members of Shiloh C. F. N. A. & C. U., are beginning to yield to wisdom. Therefore:

"Resolved, That we approve the sub-treasury bill introduced in Congress by Senator Vance.

"Resolved, That we endorse the action of the Farmers' Convention held in Columbia on the 27th day of March, 1890, and their nominee, B. R. Tillman, for Governor.

"Resolved, That we disapprove of the very decided action taken by several newspapers in the State against the Farmers' Movement, and that we will not support any paper that proves to be an enemy to our just cause.

"Resolved, That we cordially invite any of our white Alliance brethren to visit us who are in favor of the Farmers' Movement.

"In union there is strength. We all are children of Eve and Adam. Why not act so in principle? There is one God, one Heaven, one Hell, and we must stay together in one of the places. Why not vote together for Tillman?"

"A. K. SHAW, Secretary,  
"J. H. BURGH,  
"H. W. NEWTON,  
"JOHN WALLACE,  
"Committee."

### OHIO'S PROTEST.

#### The Force Bill Denounced as a Revolutionary Measure.

Thousands of people assembled in the State House grounds at Columbus, Ohio, Saturday evening, to hear the speeches made at the meeting to protest against the passage of the Lodge Federal Election bill. The Hon. Allen G. Thurman found at the last moment that he could not be present, and Mayor Buck, who presided in his stead, read the following letter from him:

"COLUMBUS, Ohio, August 2.—Messrs. Fritter, Hyneman, Dan and others—Dear Sirs: I much regret that severe illness that confines me closely to my house prevents my acceptance of your polite invitation to attend and speak at the meeting of citizens of Columbus to be held at the State House to-night to give expression to their views of the Lodge bill, so called, that was passed by the House of Representatives in Congress and is now pending in the Senate. I would esteem it a great privilege to be permitted to say to my fellow-citizens what I think of that bill, and am sincerely sorry that I am prevented from doing so either orally or by writing. I must content myself by dictating to my amanuensis a few brief sentences, and hope for a more favorable opportunity hereafter to speak more fully. I have endeavored to study the bill carefully and impartially, and the more I have studied it the more anxious it seems to me. I do really believe that it is the worst measure on the subject of elections ever introduced into an American legislature. Under the pretense of purifying the elections it provides an elaborate machinery by which the will of the people may be overthrown and the choice of their so-called Representatives be made by a set of bribing and irresponsible Federal officials, chosen without any agency of the people and acting under the orders of a superior set of dictators, whose terms of office will be practically without limitation and who will of necessity be a body of irresponsible partisans. And to support this machinery an immense fund, which it is said, may amount to millions, is to be created, to be drawn from the pockets of the people—and to be used as a bribe or corruption fund to perpetrate the rule of the party in power.

"Then the bill, if enacted into a law, will serve to intensify and perpetuate sectionalism and race prejudices, and to undo much that may have been done to put an end to those deplorable evils. The doubt, full to say the least of them, Constitutionality of some of the most important provisions of the bill and the immense and unprecedented stretch of Federal power involved in it cannot fail to strike every student of the Constitution and affirm all who believe in the teachings and the practice of the fathers.

"I am not without hope that the bill will fail in the Senate. I sincerely pray that this baneful revolution in our government will be averted. I am, gentlemen, with great respect, your friend and servant.

"ALLEN G. THURMAN."

He also read the following letter: "MARION, Mass., July 13.—Lincoln Fritter, Esq.—Dear Sir: Your letter inviting me to attend a mass-meeting to be held in the city of Columbus for the purpose of publicly protesting against the passage of the federal election law now pending in Congress has been forwarded to me here. I have made positive engagements which prevent my accepting your invitation. I do desire, however, to be entered as one of the protestants. I wish the indications were not so numerous that we have reached a stage of congressional recklessness in which the protests of the people have little weight.

"Yours very truly,  
"GROVER CLEVELAND."

The following resolutions were adopted:

"Whereas we, as citizens of the State of Ohio, regard local self-government and the control of our own elections as one of the cardinal and distinctive features of a free people; and believing it was never intended by the framers of the constitution of the United States that Congress should in any way interfere with or attempt to regulate congressional elections when such regulations have already been made by the State; and

"Whereas we believe that any such interference by Congress with the customs of our people that have remained unchanged for a century will be fraught with the greatest danger, calculated to lead to the alarming and dangerous consequences, inevitably tend to diminish the belief of the people in their power to govern themselves, and thereby endanger the stability and permanency of our institutions; and

"Whereas we believe that the Lodge bill, lately passed by the national House of Representatives and now pending in the United States Senate, has incorporated in its provisions all of these dangers; and

"Whereas we believe that, instead of insuring fair elections and an honest count, it is a measure under which the most outrageous and brazen frauds are certain to be perpetrated to promote and perpetuate party ascendancy; and

"Whereas, if enacted into a law and enforced, its provisions cannot help but interfere with and put under control of partisan United States appointees all of our local elections, promote sectionalism and not correct, but only intensify, election frauds and thereby be subversive of institutions; and

"Whereas we believe that the appointment of United States officers to control these elections, whose States appointees all of our local elections, promote sectionalism and not correct, but only intensify, election frauds and thereby be subversive of institutions; and

"Whereas we believe that the provision of this bill 'which dispenses with our system of choosing impartial juries, and substitutes for it a system by which partisan juries may be chosen; and

"Whereas we believe that the legislative, executive and judicial branches of our government should always be kept separate and distinct, we look with horror upon a measure which makes both the legislative and executive branches dependent upon the judiciary, and the judiciary made an instrument of partisanship, oppression and corruption; and, further, we believe that no interference whatsoever with our state elections by the general government should be countenanced by any true friend of our political institutions because of the dangers alluded to, and because that we most firmly believe that the intelligence, patriotism and discriminating justice of the American people in the States both North and South, will, in the future, as have done in the past, be the most powerful instrument that can be employed for remedying any evils that may exist in our election laws; therefore be it

Resolved, That we denounce the passage of the bill by the House of Representatives, and most earnestly protest against its enactment by the Senate.

Hon. George L. Converse was the first speaker. He made a careful analysis of the bill, reading it by sections and explaining the provisions of each. He was strong in his denunciation of the measure, which he characterized as one of the most insidious attempts to control federal elections ever attempted by any party in the history of the country. He was followed by Capt. A. E. Lee, a prominent Republican, who op-

posed the bill, M. D. Hester and Gov. Campbell, all of whom spoke in strong language against the proposed law.

Julian S. Carr for Governor.

Express Correspondence.

In travelling from Chapel Hill to Hillsboro the writer had pointed out to him a grave marked by handsome stones erected to the memory of a Sunday school teacher of an old Orange church by a pupil—Julian S. Carr. The story of this characteristic act has reminded me of some ideas which I have long entertained, and a vast number of North Carolinians will endorse and welcome in print.

While the Republican party through crime and reckless folly are giving us material for a telling campaign, it is impossible for the thinkers in the Democratic party to refrain from wondering who will handle them in the campaign, and these cogitations, even thus early, materially shape the election of the men. Julian S. Carr is fitted for the work both by education and habits of thinking, and his is just the name, written at the head of our ticket, to be hailed with a storm of enthusiasm from the mountains to the sea, and to inflict upon the Republicans, in one of the most remarkable campaigns ever recorded in our history, a most crushing, overwhelming and bewildering defeat.

A review of Mr. Carr's personal history will develop the fact that no man ever sat in the Governor's chair who was more worthy of this honor than he. The writer is not personally acquainted with him, but knows him as many thousands do, through his generous gifts to public institutions and charities, and his great influence in the material progress of the State. His thorough pride in Southern ways and institutions and his devotion to North Carolina make him loved by all North Carolinians.

Carr will be a magnetic and ready campaigner, a strong man, able to deliver hard blows. He is so far ahead of all other available men that his name on the ticket will strengthen every other man whom the Democratic party can associate with him.

### THE 52ND CONGRESS.

#### Will the Democrats Have Control of It?

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 1.—There is a good deal of speculation about the officers of the next House just at this time. The presumption is strong that the Democrats will control that House, but the introduction of a number of Alliance members may put it in the power of the farmer Representatives to dictate both the officers and the organization of committees. Every wheel works within a wheel in Washington, or to use a very homely axiom, "kissing goes by favor." The best opinions give the next House to the Democrats, but these best opinions are all the while adding the Alliance vote in the Democratic columns, whereas the members may take it into their heads to act independently and run a mower and reaper of their own.

Indeed, it may be inferred from what the leaders of the Alliance movement say that they feel bound to no party, and that they propose to further legislation that no Democrat or Republican, either of the present Congress, will for an instant entertain. It is then to be presumed that the Democrats of the existing Congress, who may be returned to the next, will change their views and vote for a sub-Treasury bill or is it to be thought that the Alliance men fresh from the hustings and flushed with victory are going to put away their pet schemes and drill with their old allies? Neither proposition seems to be remarkable, and as there is no middle ground, what course can the farmer representatives pursue if they do not assume the attitude of a third party, or independent voters?

These are questions that the wisest Democrats are asking themselves to-day. It makes no difference if the Democratic Executive Committees of the several districts meet and endorse the Alliance nominations, as they are now doing in North Carolina. That procedure is all well enough, but each Alliance member of Congress, whether he be from the North or from the South, will come here impressed with the feeling, and rightfully so, that he is primarily and wholly indebted to his urban constituency for his high seat, and his first and last effort must be expended in the interest of such legislation as they may approve.

It is the rule here that members who participate in caucus meetings must abide caucus decisions. How then can an Alliance member, forewarned as he certainly will be, enter no caucus with the members of either of the old parties? This is a very serious reflection for the Democrats; for a party that cannot count a majority of noses in its caucus meetings cannot, as a matter of fact, claim to organize the house or given direction to its business. The members of the Alliance legislative committee in this city assert that they will be able to muster forty voters at roll call of the Fifty-Second Congress. They are modest men, I must say, and they have been guilty of no bragging so far. If they are correct in their estimation, or even partially correct, they will just as certainly dictate the organization of the next House of Representatives in Georgia. Their method may be different but the result will be assured. E. P. SPAN.

### THE WAY WHISKEY IS MANAGED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

News and Observer.

A correspondent writing to us quotes from Col. Polk's speech as follows: "The government provides storage for your whiskey, but when you ask for storage for your grain the government tells you that it is unconstitutional."

And he then remarks: "Wrong impressions are so easily made by omitting facts as by stating things that do not exist. Why did not Col. Polk go on and state that whiskey is placed in bonded warehouses because there is a tax on that article."

The News and Observer has taken it for granted that all of our North Carolina people are familiar with the *modus operandi* of the internal revenue system, and fully understand what weight is to be given to the argument drawn from the fact that spirits are stored in bonded warehouses. The government imposes a tax on whiskey about three times its value; but it does not collect that tax until the article enters into consumption. The whiskey is made under government supervision. The tax is imposed, but it is not paid until the manufacturer gets ready to withdraw his whiskey from under government supervision. Col. Polk calls that the government lending money to the manufacturers. The boot is entirely on the other leg. The government won't let a man make spirits except under its supervision. After it is made, the government won't let him take it away until he has paid the tax, and it requires him to pay the tax in three years. The tax is three times as much as it costs to make the stuff. Where the lending comes in, we don't see. The government does not collect the tax as soon as the whiskey is made. That is all. Perhaps the Colonel thinks the law ought to be that as soon as a distiller runs out a gallon of stuff, he should pay the tax. But nevertheless there is no lending of money in the transaction.