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Ex-Gov. AYCOCK DIES SUDDEN

Was Speaking on Theme Near His Heart, "Universal Education."—Was Candidate For Nomination For United States Senator to Succeed F. M. Simmons.

Birmingham, Ala., April 4th.—Former Governor Charles B. Aycock of North Carolina dropped dead at the Jefferson theater tonight while addressing the Alabama Educational Association. Mr. Aycock was speaking on "Universal Education, Its Necessity and Benefit." He was about one fourth through his address when he suddenly staggered back a step and fell to the floor so suddenly that those on the stage were unable to reach him in time to support him.

Water was hastily thrown on his face and he was taken to the wings of the theater, but expired at once. Death was pronounced to be the result of heart failure.

Governor Aycock followed Governor O'Neal of Alabama, who had just delivered an address to the association on "Some Educational Problems." Governor O'Neal and other men prominent in educational circles in the South were seated on the stage during Governor Aycock's address.

The remains of the deceased were taken to a local undertaking establishment where they will be held until advice can be received from North Carolina as to their disposition.

Health has been Bad.

Raleigh, April 4th.—Charles Brantley Aycock, ex-Governor of North Carolina, who dropped dead in Birmingham tonight, left Raleigh night before last to deliver an educational address at Birmingham. It is reported he has made outside a court house this year.

He has been in poor health for some months and only a week ago he returned to Raleigh from Philadelphia, where he spent a month in a sanitarium fortifying himself for the strenuous canvass of the State which he was to begin next Friday, April 12, with opening speech in Raleigh, to be followed by one in Charlotte, for the nomination by State primary for United States Senator, to succeed F. M. Simmons.

The other two opponents of Senator Simmons, Governor Kitchin and Chief Justice Clark, began their campaign a month ago, but Governor Aycock had delayed his campaign for several weeks—meantime making an effort to build up his health.

Those who knew him best knew he had been afflicted with a malady that might prove fatal, but no such immediate result was anticipated. He leaves a widow and eight children—six girls and two boys—all minors except the oldest, Miss Alice.

Mr. Aycock's Career.

Charles Brantley Aycock was born at Fremont, this State, November 1, 1859. When a youth he entered the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he took high rank, especially excelling in English. In a large measure he earned by his own labor the money which paid his collegiate expenses, a fact which in no way affected his proficiency in his studies or his great popularity among his fellow students. He was graduated from the University, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Soon afterwards he devoted himself to the study of law, the profession to which his exceptional talents as a speaker and as a thinker made him unusually fitted. He was admitted to the bar and entered on the career which North Carolina but yesterday believed was still tending towards its climax.

In connection with his practice, Mr. Aycock became superintendent of the Wayne county schools. It was while holding this position, doubtless, that he imbedded much of that wholesome and whole-hearted enthusiasm for education which won him universally in his native State the title, "North Carolina's Educational Governor."

From 1893 to 1898 he was United States district attorney in the district of North Carolina.

Real Career Begins.

It was in 1898 that he gained Statewide prominence as a campaigner. Under fusion rule scores of negroes in the eastern part of the State had been appointed magistrates and even to offices of more influence and power. The shackled east appealed to the more fortunate west for aid and a battle for "white supremacy" was begun and waged until the whole State rang with the battle cry.

His most prominent enemy could not have called his speeches narrow. Whatever else they were, they were frank, plainly spoken, and mellowed with a humor which convulsed. There was a drollery of manner, a distinctiveness of touch in his treatment of funny stories which made his hearers demand the repetition of his favorites. It is but recording the plain, cold facts in the case to say that it has been widely conceded that no North Carolinian of latter years has possessed in so full a degree the power to stir the hearts of his compatriots, or has enjoyed a larger measure of the confidence and esteem of his contemporaries.

Elected Governor.

It was natural, therefore, with the return of the gubernatorial election year in 1900, that Aycock should have been chosen the standard-bearer of his party. There was a special reason for this. The victory won by the forces which fought for "white supremacy" in 1898 was sweeping and complete in so far as it went, but was necessarily of a temporary nature. It was desired to settle the question beyond all cavil and for many decades if not for all time. For that purpose a constitutional amendment was drafted, greatly restricting negro suffrage. Another struggle, even more far-reaching in its effects than the other, was to be fought, and Mr. Aycock's leadership was felt to be essential. The amendment was carried and the Democratic State ticket was elected by a large majority.

Once in office, with the distracting questions of politics safely out of the way, Governor Aycock gave himself unreservedly to the encouragement of education. He made speeches in every section of the commonwealth, pleading the cause of the common schools, and appealing for a deeper interest on the part of parents in order that their children should be able to battle with the world on equal terms with their fellows. Educators since that time have dated the educational revival in this State back to the Aycock administration.

Exceedingly Popular.

The sudden passing of this man removes from the state one of its most unique and brilliant characters and comes as a shocking announcement not only to friends political, but friends personal and universal hardly a man in North Carolina will be so genuinely and so generally mourned. He was beloved of all, the high and the low, the plebeian and the patriot. As a man in other days without political preferment, he endeared himself to the hearts of associates as few others in the State have been able to burn their personalities into the people. He was kind and compassionate.

None were so stooped in poverty or covered with crime that he could not reach them by his gentle ministrations. None were so lofty in position or crowned with honor that they could not take from him some word of warning or some counsel that cheered and lent encouragement. His life as a lawyer was marked with abundant rewards, not the rewards that enrich men, but rather the recompense of a friendship that never wore away.

He Loved the People.

When former Governor Aycock entered public life, he was inspired by the ambition to serve his people and not to promote his own fish interests. In the political history of the State within recent years he has oc-



Photo copyright by Harris & Ewing.
OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD, DEMOCRACY'S BEST ASSET.

cupied a conspicuous place. Mingled with a native ability that has never been denied, he added a personality that was instantly magnetic and commanding. The intellectual genius of this beloved son of North Carolina was not his greatest asset as great as that might have been. He had the heart of a friend and the passion he poured into the politics of North Carolina was not the overflow of a soul that sought honor without reason or preferment without cause. He loved North Carolina and he loved North Carolinians. And the people knew it. The explanation of his personal and political achievements is found here. His heart found the heart of the people on the same platform, on the same basis of a common interest and a common destiny.

A Faithful Servant.

Retiring from the seat of honor at Raleigh, Mr. Aycock did not cease to lend his best efforts to the cause of democracy. Whenever he was summoned to the aid of the brilliant forces of the party, he abandoned his private interests and announced his readiness. His faithfulness in this service is proverbial. It is well known throughout the length and breadth of the State. He was not personal nor partisan in his later efforts. He was guided by the action of the forces under whom he was working then as a private. In the mountains he preached the same doctrine that his eloquent tongue expounded through the piedmont and in every utterance, whether here or there, he breathed the same spirit of fidelity to his party's principles and the same inborn passion for the dominant rights of the masses. He was not a demagogue either in private or public life.

He founded his fortunes upon principle and won his laurels by abiding firmly to the tenets of his party without the prejudice of the partisan or the bitterness of the demagogue.

Political Disappointments.

The sudden death of the former Governor, occurring just at this time, is all the more regrettable because of the announcement of his candidacy for the United States Senate.

Mr. Aycock was to have made his first speech in Raleigh tonight to open his campaign. Former Governor Glenn was to have presented him for his initial engagement in this capacity. Death has not only taken from the State one of its most eminent sons, but has likewise removed from the senatorial race a factor

that was to be reckoned with. Mr. Aycock, in a statement some time ago announcing his intention to make the race for the United States Senate, declared that he did not have the money that others had to apply to his candidacy, but that he relied upon the just judgment of the people of North Carolina for his chances of success. And he reckoned well. While the race for the past few weeks has been conceded between Governor Kitchin and Senator Simmons, Mr. Aycock was acknowledged to be a strong factor in the development.

He was regarded as the second choice of the people of North Carolina and his opportunities for success would have been notably in advance of the two leading candidates, in the estimation of his friends, but for the rejection of the preferential plan of the primary. His candidacy has been met with universal favor throughout the state and while the two acknowledged rivals have, perhaps, held the dominant place in the minds of the voters, loyal and substantial friends of the deceased have been unrelenting in their efforts and their faithful service, coupled with his own appealing personality, would undoubtedly have equipped him for a formidable race with the ablest and the most popular of North Carolina sons.

The death of the former Governor bears a further exceedingly sad feature, the engagement of his daughter to Mr. Clarence Poe, editor of The Progressive Farmer, having been announced some time ago. The marriage was to take place in the course of a few weeks.

The voice of the people from the verdure-clad mountains of North Carolina, from the foothills of the piedmont and from the coastal country mingle in uniform and universal lamentation over the passing of such a distinguished son even though it be his crowning.

Almost a Miracle.

One of the most startling changes ever seen in any man, according to W. B. Holselaw, Clarendon, Tex., was effected years ago in his brother. "He had such a dreadful cough," he writes, "that all our family thought he was going into consumption, but he began to use Dr. King's New Discovery, and was completely cured by ten bottles. Now he is sound and well and weighs 218 pounds. For many years our family has used this wonderful remedy for coughs and colds with excellent results." It's quick, safe, reliable and guaranteed. Price 50 cents and \$1.00. Trial bottle free at E. H. Hennis Drug Co.

Eat 'em—National Oats.

YET AFTER THE ALENS.

The hunt in the mountains for the two men yet at large, Sidna Allen and Wesley Edwards, continues with all vigor that can be put forth. There is some probability that the two men have gone out of the mountains and are possibly now far away. Since the bloodhounds were carried there there has been little news from the scene. Stories are current that they have been seen in various parts of the country, one goes that they were hauled out of Carroll county in a wagon which appeared to have the bed full of loose hay. The detectives are keeping the force of men in the mountains and a search is being kept up day and night. Other detectives are put on the track of every clew that originates, and it has developed into the greatest man-hunt that this section has ever had.

It has now been four weeks since the tragedy and the hunted men are yet at large, two of the smartest are. People who know them are not the least surprised that they are not caught. They are as cunning and as daring and as tireless as the detectives and it is a game that is being watched in these parts with the greatest interest.

The report went out that the courts had tied up all the property of the Allens and left them without a cent of money to live upon or with which to pay lawyers to defend themselves. It is now reported that the courts failed to get possession of about eighteen hundred dollars worth of good notes belonging to Floyd Allen and as much as several thousand dollars of notes belonging to Sidna Allen. These notes have been transferred, so report says, so that the courts cannot attach them and will furnish abundant funds with which to pay able attorneys and other expenses in putting up a long and able legal battle.

The Allens have employed the best lawyers in the country to defend them and the effort is being made to inject politics into the deplorable affair. The fact is well known that Floyd Allen has long been a strong Democrat and worked hard for the success of his party in his township. His influence was so great that he was able to practically control the vote in his township, at least his enemies so charged. The Court officials who were killed, except the Judge, were all Republicans and political enemies of Floyd Allen. Along these lines politics is being talked in connection with the case.

The following article taken from the Roanoke Times, an influential paper, shows that the press of the state of Virginia is not disposed to refuse to give the Allens a fair deal in publishing their side of the question. The article was classed under the head of "Public Opinion" and was evidently written by some one who is not in harmony with the sentiment of the people who are now having the most to say about the tragedy. There are those who claim to see that the Allens had great provocation for what they did and that the courts had not treated them in a way to command their respect.

The article from the Roanoke paper follows:

Hot For The Allens.

Editor The Roanoke Times: Your issue of the 4th inst. contains, I venture to avert, the most remarkable production, that has ever emanated from the hands of a governor of Virginia. For the benefit of those who have never seen it I shall embrace it in this article:

Richmond, Va., April 2.—Notice was today served on the people of Carroll county by Governor Mann that any aid rendered Sidna Allen and Wesley Edwards would lead to the prompt arrest and prosecution as accessories to those so aiding. Detectives believe that this move possibly will cut off the food supplies of the outlaws who are yet supposed to be hiding in the mountains of Virginia. The Governor's statement, made into the shape of a procla-

mation, follows:

"To Whom It May Concern: This is to notify all persons who give aid and comfort to Sidna Allen and Wesley Edwards, charged with the murder of Judge Massie. Commonwealth's Attorney Foster and Sheriff Webb, at Hillsville, on the fourteenth of March, 1912, by furnishing them with food, lodging, clothing, fuel, or in any way aiding, receiving, relieving, comforting or assisting them, that instructions will be given to the proper officers of the State to arrest, try and upon conviction, punish them to the extent of the law, that is by fine and imprisonment.

"The good citizens of the State, especially those residing in Carroll and vicinity, are earnestly requested to give such information as they may from time to time acquire of the movements of Sidna Allen and Wesley Edwards to the officers engaged in their pursuit or to the attorney for the Commonwealth of Carroll county, and to aid in every way the officers of the State in effecting the arrest of these men.

"The people of Virginia are assured that no effort will be spared to arrest those charged with the crime at Hillsville, to give them a fair and impartial trial and to execute whatever judgment may be rendered by the court. (Signed),

Wm. Hodges Mann, Governor."

Who did the killing at Hillsville never will be known. It is evident from the proof which has been given that there were more than one hundred shots fired. Who killed those who were killed, will never be known; who fired the first shot is not known. It seems that every officer of that court, except Judge Massie was armed to the teeth. Where did Miss Goad get the pistol from she handed her father? Who drove the Allens from the court house and from the town? On what law or authority have rewards been offered and certain citizens been declared outlaws? And not only rewards, but immunity offered to any and all who may murder them? I have as little patience with outlawry, whether it be committed by the thief who strolls about at night while others are taking their needful rest; robs his neighbor in any way; the man who makes his living by doing unlawful things—such as making "moonshine whiskey," or robbing any one in any way. It is the boast of every constitution and statute law of every Christian, or law-abiding land, that every one suspected of crime is presumed in law to be innocent until, after an impartial trial by jury, peers of the accused has declared them guilty. Not only beyond every reasonable doubt, but one inconsistent with every hypothesis of innocence.

Now, I don't know an Allen, don't know that I ever met with one of them. I did know Judge Massie, and deplore the lurid incident of Hillsville as any living man can. I am mortified for my State. I feel for the widows and orphans that have been made by some hot headed foolishness and I believe in punishing those guilty of violating the law, but, what is to be thought of a man at the head of public officers in the old Commonwealth and mother of commonwealths, declaring men outlaws, putting a premium on murderers who may shoot them from ambush, making widows and orphans of their wives and children, who have never been convicted of any offence or ever put on trial before any tribunal?

By some means the Allens seem to have incurred the displeasure of a good many, and as far as can be judged from a biased report, it was simply because they were Democrats and men. They were hospitable and able to show their hospitality and by it incurred the displeasure of those around them. Who of us, aye, where lives the man, worthy to be called a man, seeing two boys hand-cuffed by a fugitive from justice from North Carolina, and marched like negro thieves up the road, would not have stopped and expostulated with those having them in

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