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AYCOCK'S !NAUGURAL ADDRESS

The Constitution of Amendment, The State Must Educate all Its Every Legal Voter Must Have the Law Must Prevail. Amendment Its Causes and Its Results. The Threat of Negro Domination.

Ladies and Fellow-Citizens:

Every four years brings us a change of administration but not always a change 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 afturgle that theory had outrun practice said 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 faundation of our social fabric had been overturned, we were helpless. A victorious bat ungenerous political enemy had crushed us to the earth, they had forced upon us the recognition of theories 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. We urgently strove to instill into their minds that their true interests were likewise ours; we sought with great solicitude and with much sacrifice of toil and capital to convince them that parties were the servants and not the masters of the people and that no past services of a party, however beneficial these services might appear, justified the destruction of good and safe and economical government in order to secure its success. We provided schools for them and apent for them as we spent for our own children. We cared for their insane and opened schools for the education of their afficietd and for the care and tuition of those who were left fatherless and mothericss. We continued these efforts in the face of repeated evidence of their hostility and abated not our host who were left fatherless and mothers. evils of a suffrage based on manhood only. We found in the first days of that those who were left fatherless and motherless. We continued these efforts in the face of repeated evidence of their hostility and abated not our whose they repeated their follies. We still bened that they would follow the example of the whites and divide their vote along the lines of governmental, industrial and moral issues. The result was a disappointment. The uegro was always to be counted upon and our opponents did not hesitate at any excess because they knew that they had 120,000 voters who could be relied upon to support any policy however ruinous, which bore the stamp of Republicanism. With this vote as a certainty our adversaries when they came to power after twenty years of defeat dared new evils and wrongs. Under their rule, lawlessness walked the State like a pestilence—death stalked abroad at noonday—"sleep lay down armed"—the sound of the pistol was more frequent than the song of the mocking bird—the screams of women fleeing from pursuing brutes closed the gates of our hearts with a shock. Our opponents unmindful of the sturdy determination of our people to have safe and good government at all hazards became indifferent to or in capable of enforcing law and preserving order. Confident of the support of the ignorant mass of negro voters the Republican party and its ally forgot the strength and determination of that people who fought the first fight in Alanuane against bad government and wrote the first Declaration of Independence in Mecklenburg. They challenged North Carolinians to combat and the world knows the result. The campaign of 1898 ended in a victory for good government. That was not a contest of passion but of necessity. When we came to power we desired merely the security of life, liberty and property. We had seen all these menaced by 120,000 negro voters cast as the vote of one man. We had seen our chief city pass through blood and death desired merely the security of the, thoerty and property. We had seen all these
menaced by 120,000 negro votes east as
the vote of one man. We had seen our
chief city pass through blood and death
in search of safety. We did not dislike
the negro, but we did love good government. We knew that he was incapable of giving us that and we resolved,
not in anger but for the safety of the
State, to curtail his power. We had
seen what a struggle it required to preserve even the form of Republican government with him as a voter. The negro
was not only ignorant—he was clannish.
The educated among them who realized
the danger to the State in mass voting
were unable to free themselves from
the power of its ostracism.

THE AMENDMENT.
When the Legislature of 1899 met, it

Children, and the Democratic Party Has Given Its Pledge,

Pledge,

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. If a white man can read and write he can vote; if a negro can read and write he can vote, if a white man cannot read or write, but is descended from one who could vote on January 1st, 1867, or at any time prior thereto, or if he could vote himself before that time he can vote. If a negro cannot read and write, but is descended from a person who could vote on January 1st, 1867, or at any time prior thereto, or if himself could vote before that time he can vote. There is, therefore, in our amendment no taint of that inequality provided against in the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and in order that the question might not even be suggested and realizing the importance of educating the white and black alike, our amendment read and write under penalty of losing his vote. Interpreted on this fashion we may with complacency accept the declaration of the Republican National platform that our amendment is revolutionary. So was the one for Independence distinctly known as the Revolution and our libertles are founded upon it. Our amendment may be revolutionary, but it is a revolution of advancement. It takes no step backward, it distinctly looks to the future; it sees the day of universal suffrage but sees that day not in the obscurity of ignorance but in the light of universal education. The twilight will grow into the perfect day with the sun of intelligence shining in the sky. That is our hope and promise. We shall not fail.

PLEDGED TO EDUCATE.

fail.

PLEDGED TO EDUCATE.

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 him and the partner of his sorrows and joys. I pledged the wealth of the State to the education of his children. Men of wealth, representatives of great corting. I then realized that the strong

of wealth, representatives of great cortion. I then realized that the strong desire which dominated me for the uplifting of the whole people moved not only my heart, but was likewise the hope and aspiration of those upon whom fortune had smiled. I had loved the North Carolina people before that time, but I never knew and appreciated the best qualities of many of our citizens until I saw the owners of many thousands as eager for the education of the whole people as I was myself. Then I knew that the bope and task before us, Gentlemen of the Legislaure, was not an that the bope and task before us, Gen-tlemen of the Legislature, was not an impossible one. We are prosperify as never before—our wealth increases, our industries multiply, our commerce extends and among the owners of this wealth, this multiplying industry, this extending commerce. I have found no man who is unwilling to make the State stronger and better by liberal aid to the cause of education.

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 fear months' term in each year in every school district in the State;" and in the campaign which was conducted throughout the State with so much energy and earnestness that platform pledge was made the basis of the promises which we all made to the people. Poor and unlettered men anxious about the privileges of their children and hestiating to vote for the amendment were finally persuaded to secept our promise and place their children in a position in which they can never vote unless the pledges which we made are redeemed to the fullest extent. For my part I declare to you that it shall be my constant aim and effort during the four years that I shall endeavor to serve the people of this State to redeem this most solemn of all our pledges. If more taxes are required to the people, is more taxes must be levied. If property das escaped taxation heretofore which the property of the people of the state of the people.

Right to Cast One Vote, and Have It Counted as

Cast.

pel by the force of public opinion the attendance of every child upon the schools. It is easier to accomplish this since the amendment to our Constitution raises its solemn voice and declares that the child who arrives at age after 1908 cannot share in the glorious privilege of governing his State nor participating in the policies of the nation unless he can read and write. This is, therefore, the opportune moment for a revival of educational 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 speaches. It is a work of years to be done day by day with a full realization of its importance and with that anxious interest or our part which will stimulate the careless and will make all our people cager 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. This simple fact alone justifies the adoption of the amendment for it was its passage that first brought home to all our people the necessity for universal education. We enter an era of industrial development. Growth in that direction is dependent upon intelligence—not the intelligence of the few, but of all. Massachusetts realized this fact from the day when the Pilgrim Fathers landed on Plymouth Rock and by that clear perception she has won wealth out of bleak coasts and sterile lands. Our forefathers acknow!

DDRESS

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LAW MUST HAVE SWAY.

We have a great State, rich in noble manhood, richer still in her high-minded womanhood; a State with countless treasures awaiting seekers; with riches in her fields and woods, streams and sounds, hills and mountains, sufficient to satisfy our dreams of wealth; with a frugal and industrious population ready to toil just awakening fully to the possibilities before them. All that we need "to complete the circle of our felicities" is peace. Let hatred and bitternoss end strife cease from among us. Let the law everywhere reign supreme. The highest test of a great people is obedience to law and a consequent ability to administer justice. It shall be the carnest aim of my admin-

and the particite ditures not or State have won this victory only for the sake of good government and not for party aggrandized the property of the sake of good government and not for party aggrand the MERE SAPETY LIES.

On every platform in the late campaign I declared our purpose to be to secure good government, safety and peace to doucate all the children, and to bring about that day when even methods. Thousand anyority. I shall, therefore, confidently expect you, Gentlemen of the Legislature, without regard to party, thousand majority. I shall, therefore, confidently expect you, Gentlemen of the Legislature, without regard to party, to frame an election law fair in every purpose, clear in every detail, and to provide machinery by which every man qualified the party of the whole power of my administration to secure that should after upon the discharge of my individual to interpret adequately the true spirit underlying our cleange in the Constitution; but I have never for one moment questioned that the ultimate aim of our people was to secure a Constitution under which security for life, libery and more prety could be found under the forms of the ward to make the constitution, and which will be carried out in the spirit just suggested, as revolutionary. They sought to prevent its success by threats before the election and in the first moments of passion—the security for life, libery and any other property could be found under the forms of the work mental and the constitution, and which will be carried out in the spirit just suggested the propose and any threat the security of the libery and the propose and any threat the propose and the propose and any threat the propose and any threat the propose and the propose and any threat the propose and the propose and any threat the propose and any threat the pro

HON. CHARLES B. AYCOCK

Short Sketch of Our Governor of North Carolina

Charles Brantley Aycock was born



HON. CHARLES BRANTLEY AYCOCK, Governor of North Carolina,

edged the same fact in their first constitution, and from that time to the present our Constitutions and Legislative Acts have all looked towards this end; but the whole people have never before been awakened to its advocacy. 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 in the not distant future can be given only by 'hose 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 deducation of the voter for the use of the deducation of the voter for the use of the deducation of the voter for the use of the deducation of the people grows. Our industries will be benefitted; our com-When the Legislature of 180 met, it can be a serilly as the series of the series and was a innerty's arxious to away the good and a mineral series and the series of the series and was a innerty's arxious to away the good and a mineral series and was a innerty's arxious to away the good and a mineral series and was a innerty's arxious to away the good and the series of the series and was a innerty's arxious to away the good and a series of the series and was a innerty's arxious to away the good and a series of the series and was a financial of the series of the series of the series and was a financial of the series of the ser