

AYCOCK'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

The Constitutional Amendment, Its Causes and Its Results. The Threat of Negro Domination.

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.

The State Must Educate all Its Children, and the Democratic Party Has Given Its 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.

Every Legal Voter Must Have the 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 1898 cannot share in the glorious privilege of governing his State nor participating in the policies of the nation unless he can read and write.

Law Must Prevail. Amendment Secures Freedom of Thought. Will be Gov. of all the People.

walk are the burden bearers who deserve no aid and are weak because of their follies. A great State can never act on this theory, but will always recognize that the strong can care for themselves while the true aim of the State is to provide equal and just laws giving to the weak opportunity to grow strong and restraining the powerful from oppressing the less fortunate.



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.

thousand, but let them all shine together to brighten life and make the State more glorious and may they all have as their source that God who first said, "Let there be light."

our State to the day when the negro was given the elective 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 farce and a fraud.

I call upon all upright negroes to aid me in suppressing crime in all its forms. The white people owe a high duty to the negro. It was necessary to the safety of the State to base suffrage on capacity to exercise it wisely.

When the Legislature of 1899 met, it was confronted with these facts and was sincerely anxious to save the good and suppress the evil of those forces which had made our history.

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.

The Good Book tells us that the strong should bear the infirmities of the weak and the lessons of that great authority are of utility in our political life.

Let hatred and bitterness and 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.

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 1882 to the May term 1881.