ANNUAL MESSAGE
OF
GOVERNOR
COLE. L. BLEASE
TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
JANUARY 12, 1915

GONZALEZ AND BRYAN, STATE PRINTERS
COLUMBIA, S. C.
1915
State of South Carolina,
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER.

MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the General Assembly: I deem it necessary for me to say but very little on this occasion, as my term as Governor ends within a few days, after I shall have served in that capacity for four years, as long, I believe, as any one has ever occupied that office—and I presume that other recommendations and suggestions will later be submitted to you for your consideration.

I do, however, call your attention to, and ask, your careful consideration of each and every recommendation which I have made in my annual and special messages to the General Assemblies of 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, and the extra session of the General Assembly of 1914. It is in the interest of the people of the State that I call your attention to these recommendations. You will find therein many matters which are of vital importance to our people, and which, if they had been enacted into law, would have given much relief, and in consequence the people of South Carolina today would not have been facing the very serious and, in some instances, disastrous situations which now confront them.

THE STATE'S OBLIGATIONS.

Recently I have been called upon to sign notes which, if I had done so, would have put the people of the State in a more serious financial condition, by forcing them to pay interest for the loan of money, which could have been very easily avoided if the extra session of the General Assembly had accepted my advice, which was urged upon them in my first message to that session, in special messages thereafter, and in a speech which I delivered from the Speaker's stand in the hall of the House of Representatives, advocating and begging, on behalf of the people, that the members of that General Assembly extend the time for the payment of taxes and make provision for the incoming administration to borrow money to take care of the finances of the State. At the same time that General Assembly was begged and implored, on behalf of the people, to pass an act prohibiting the foreclosure of any mortgage
on real or personal property until the people could have an opportunity to get themselves in shape to meet their obligations and the financial situation could readjust itself. However, the Legislature, as usual, declined to listen to my recommendations, the majority of that body being "anti-Blease," as denominated by others. Blinded by political prejudice, instead of working for the best interests of their people, the majority refused to see anything good in any recommendation that I might make.

I herewith submit to you the correspondence on this loan matter, which fully explains itself:

LETTER FROM STATE TREASURER.

State of South Carolina, Executive Department.

Office of State Treasurer,
Columbia, November 17, 1914.

HON. COLE. L. BLEASE, Governor, Columbia, S. C.:

Dear Sir: Remittances received this morning from county treasurers indicate that it will be necessary for the State to borrow more money for current expenses. Therefore, you are requested to meet with the Borrowing Committee at the Treasurer's office at 11:00 o'clock a. m., Wednesday, November 18, 1914, for the purpose of considering the matter.

Very respectfully,

S. T. CARTER,
State Treasurer.

INTERVIEW GIVEN TO THE PRESS.

Governor Blease this morning gave out the following statement in reference to the borrowing of $100,000.00 to $150,000.00 more money for general expenses:

In my general message to the extra session of the Legislature—in fact, one of the very principal reasons for my calling them together—was to carry out a recommendation to extend the time for the payment of taxes and to provide for the incoming administration to borrow a sufficient amount of money to run the State government, in order that said extension might be granted the people. In a verbal message delivered to them, on my return from the Memphis conference, and in several written messages during their session, I urged, with all my heart, the passage of these two measures, and I had prepared in my office, and introduced by Mr. Summers, of Anderson, bills looking to this end. The extra session did nothing along this line. A large majority of the body, both
House and Senate, was strongly anti-Blease. Therefore, they ignored all the requests and suggestions I made in reference to these matters and left the people in a helpless and pitiful condition. I knew this relief should be given; I knew our financial condition, and I knew what it was going to be later—just as I set out in those various messages—still the Legislature, playing cheap politics, refused to take any action. They refused to extend the time for the payment of taxes; they refused to make arrangements for the borrowing of money, except to provide that the Sinking Fund Commission should borrow a certain amount to pay the extra session appropriations.

I declined to meet with the Sinking Fund Commission to borrow this money, because I think six per cent. was absolutely excessive, and if the Legislature had not forced through what I considered a most outrageous act, but allowed the bill to take its twenty-day course, as provided by law, we could have borrowed this money within that time at a very much lower rate of interest. In view of these matters, I wrote Mr. Carter the following letter:

"Columbia, November 17th, 1914.

"Hon. S. T. Carter, State Treasurer, Columbia, S. C.:

"Dear Sir: Your note of November 17th, 1914, received.

"In reply, I beg to state that I am absolutely opposed to borrowing any more money for the State of South Carolina, because I deem it absolutely unnecessary and an extravagant expenditure in the payment of interest.

"I recently vetoed an act of the Legislature, which, in my opinion, was clearly in violation of the oaths of the members. They passed it over my veto, and I understand the Sinking Fund Commission has paid as high rate of interest as six per cent., by virtue of that act. I refused to be a party to that, and I think every man who took part in it violated the oath that he took when he assumed the duties of the office he was filling.

"I do not propose to meet with your Borrowing Committee or the Sinking Fund Commission during the remainder of my term as Governor, and shall, and do now, enter my protest against any action of the Borrowing Committee or the Sinking Fund Commission. I do not believe that we have a legal Sinking Fund Commission. The act making the chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate, and the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House members of that commission, as hold-overs, is clearly in violation of the Constitution of this State, and without those two
members there can be no legal action of the Sinking Fund Commission, as there will not be a quorum present. I am satisfied that the extravagance on the part of the members of the General Assembly, and the utter failure on the part of others to do their duty to the people of this State, has caused the trouble of which you speak. I am in no manner responsible for it and I do not propose to carry their burdens. I pleaded with the General Assembly, at its extra session, to extend the time for the payment of taxes, because of the terrible financial crisis now upon our people. They refused to heed my request. I also pleaded with them to make arrangements to borrow money to finance the State under the exigency. They again refused to heed my request, and I do not now propose to take upon my shoulders the responsibility of relieving them of their dereliction of duty to their people and utter disregard of their oaths and their wantonness in performing a simply duty to the people whose servants they were.

"Therefore, you need not count upon me at your meeting; nor will I sign any paper unless you can borrow the money at least as low a rate of interest as three per cent.

"Very respectfully, COLE. L. BLEASE, "Governor."

I notice Mr. Jones and Mr. Carter say that they are going to ask for bids. To this I have no objection. I notice Mr. Jones says that he will pay out no more school money unless this money is borrowed. A very nice suggestion to your money lender—put your bid as high as you please; we need the money for the schools; we are obliged to have it; you need not make a low bid, but make it as high as you want; the State needs the money to run her schools. I also see implied in this remark a threat that if the Governor does not take part in the loan that the responsibility for closing the schools will be upon his head, but that is a mistake. If the people do not want their schools closed all that they will have to do will be to pay their taxes to the county treasurers. The county treasurers will send it to the State Treasurer and there will be sufficient amount of money to run the government and the schools without borrowing a dollar. If the people do not pay their taxes, and the schools should be closed, the responsibility will be with those who failed to pay and not with those who failed to borrow at an exorbitant rate of interest. And, I repeat, I shall have absolutely nothing whatever to do with the borrowing of this money and shall not put my name on any paper. Therefore, if the people do not want their schools
to close let them pay their taxes. If it is a hardship upon them to pay their taxes let them curse the men they elected and sent to the Legislature, and not the Governor, for he certainly did his part in trying to get them to relieve conditions and they refused to do so. Now, if the people will pay their taxes the schools will run on, the government will run on, and these same taxpayers will be saved paying more exorbitant interest on a hundred or hundred and fifty thousand dollar loan. If they don't do it, let the responsibility go where it belongs.

There is quite a difference between the borrowing of money now and the borrowing of money in May or June, because in May or June there were no taxes to collect and the people could not relieve the situation at that time. Now, it is absolutely unnecessary to borrow if the people will pay, and as the Legislature said that they would not extend the time I see no redress for the suffering people but for them to obey the mandate of the Legislature or suffer the result. I attempted to avoid this, but was not allowed to do so.

(Signed) COLE. L. BLEASE,
Governor.


EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PAYMENT OF TAXES.

Having killed the monstrous bond issue provided for by the extra session of the General Assembly, and having refused to sign the notes for the borrowing of $150,000 by the State, the results were just as I anticipated, and the people paid enough taxes to meet all of the obligations of the State, and the taxpayers, by my actions in these instances, were saved thousands of dollars of interest, I felt that this bond issue and this proposal to borrow money were both monstrosities, and my refusal to approve them has had the result stated.

On December 31 I addressed the following communication to the Comptroller General:

State of South Carolina, Executive Chamber,
Columbia, December 31st, 1914.

HON. A. W. JONES, Comptroller General, Columbia, S. C. : 

Dear Sir: Section 767 of the Code of 1912, Volume I, provides that "the Comptroller General, with the approval of the Governor, may extend the time for the performance of the duties imposed upon county officers or for the assessment and collection of taxes; and, when such assessment and collection of taxes are necessarily
delayed, the Comptroller General may postpone the time within which the penalties imposed by law would attach."

You, as well as I, are thoroughly familiar with the dire financial straits of a great many of our people who at this time are utterly unable to pay their taxes within the time required by law. In order to relieve this situation and this distress in so far as my power lay, I urged the General Assembly at its extra session to pass a law extending the time for the payment of taxes. My request, however, as you know, was not heeded.

Now, at this time those of our citizens and taxpayers who are able to do so have patriotically paid their taxes and relieved the State government from the necessity of borrowing funds to pay the interest on the State debt and its other obligations. I am satisfied that the failure of those who have not paid their taxes up to this time has not been from a lack of patriotism, but from a lack of means with which to pay their taxes. These are the people who need relief in this crisis. Under the section of the Code referred to the duty of the extension of taxes under such conditions rests upon you, subject alone to the approval of the Governor. This communication is addressed to you in order to remind you of the conditions in this State in so far as taxpaying is concerned, and to advise you in advance that any extension of the time by you for the payment of these taxes, which will give relief to our people, will be approved by the Governor.

Very respectfully,

COLE, L. BLEASE,
Governor.

He replied by issuing an order, which I duly approved, for the extension of the time for the payment of taxes, which relieved many helpless taxpayers, to whom the Legislature at its extra session refused to give relief. The Comptroller General and the Governor stepped into the breach and took the responsibility upon their own shoulders. Of course, the newspapers, as usual, in their unfairness, gave me no credit. However, it is a matter of record, and in due time will be placed properly before the people and they will see that once again, by my refusal to be a party to extravagance and wastefulness, financial affairs righted themselves and the taxpayers were saved thousands of dollars.

TAXATION.

In speaking of finances, I call your attention particularly to the fact that the people are tax-ridden. It is a crying shame and a
disgrace that our people should have to pay the amount of taxes which they are now paying and receive so little benefit therefrom. They are over-burdened with taxation. They are crying out for relief, and I say to you that there are today too many people drawing salaries under the State government and giving no return. The farmers, who are the backbone of the State, are treated as if they were a set of ignoramuses, or plain fools, to be more explicit and emphatic. There are now being sent around over the State people called "farm demonstrators" who are being paid large salaries out of the taxpayers' pockets, and who are giving absolutely no return for the money. The very idea of a man being paid a salary and his expenses to go around and tell the farmers the necessity for them to plant grain, to raise hogs, to diversify crops! The most ignorant man in South Carolina knows the importance of these things, and yet the farmers are being taxed, while already over-burdened with taxation, to hear some little fellow get up and talk about what a farmer should do. I am really surprised that the farmers and taxpayers of this State have stood this thing as long as they have. In many instances these men use their offices for political purposes, going around to act as the political henchmen of somebody, and they are of absolutely no service in the world to the farmers of the State. Yet the farmers are paying a high rate of taxation for this so-called service, while actually some of them are at home hungry and their wives and families not receiving as much of the actual necessities of life as they should have, while these agents—these great "teachers of how to farm"—and their families are riding around in palace cars, living on the luxuries of the land. It is both absurd and criminal, and yet we find no man in either branch of the General Assembly who has the political courage to arise and denounce it. The only explanation seems to be that they must fear that at the opportune time these agents would fight them in the political arena.

I want to say to you now that the time is very short in which the man will be found who will go on the stump as a candidate for Governor in South Carolina, and will expose the system of taxation, and will expose this very kind of incipient rottenness in our State government, and I predict to you today that the next campaign will bring forth a candidate for Governor who will make his fight straight upon the tax question.
Another thing: Your State institutions are being supported entirely too extravagantly. Take Clemson College as an example. The representatives of the people seem to be afraid to open their mouths against Clemson for fear that the Clemson graduates and students will form themselves into a political combination and fight those who dare to state the facts. But I want to say to you and to them that there are true and loyal citizens of South Carolina who graduated at Clemson College who are not going to sacrifice the interests of their State to promote the selfish ambitions of any man or any set of men, and they themselves are already clamoring against the fearful extravagance that is being indulged in at Clemson College.

Gentlemen, you should stop and investigate that matter. What good is Clemson College as an agricultural institution? Is there a man in your body who knows how much money Clemson College gets? Is there a man in your body who knows how many teachers and professors and other employees there are in Clemson College? Is there a man in your body who knows how much of the property now at Clemson College belongs to the State of South Carolina? These matters you should investigate, and the enormous extravagance at that institution should be stopped.

I realize that any man who starts the investigation will have to fight every man on the Board of Trustees, every teacher and every one of the teachers' relatives, and many of the graduates and students, but if he will go at it like a man he will find hundreds of Clemson's own graduates who will agree with him that Clemson is not returning to the people of South Carolina a fair value for what she is receiving.

Individually, I would do nothing in the world to hurt or to cripple Clemson College. But the name ought to be changed to Calhoun University, the Board of Trustees ought to be elected by you, and the entire management either ought to be under the State or the State ought to withdraw her support of the institution. Clemson will never be the useful institution that she should be so long as all, or nearly all, of the members of the Board of Trustees hold political offices. When the institution was started it was heralded out and grounded in that a man connected with it must be an agriculturist, and that the office he held in connection with the college must be the only office which he should hold. Today, after so short a time, we find nearly every member of this Board of Trustees
holding political jobs, which is clearly in violation of the Constitution of our State, as the Supreme Court has said and as some of the Circuit Judges have said. Yet these men, members of this board, sworn to obey the Constitution, and who are most flagrantly violating it, make contemptuous remarks—some of them, at least—when a poor devil, who has done something in the heat of passion or has possibly stolen to feed a hungry family, is paroled or pardoned. How can you expect obedience to law when the highest officials in your State are openly violating it and disregarding the oaths which they have taken to uphold and obey it?

Your other higher institutions of learning are also receiving too much money. As I have said, I know that it is dangerous, politically, for the reasons which I have stated, to urge these reforms, but I call these matters to your attention to show you wherein, without hurting one of these institutions, and without impairing their usefulness in the least, you can save your State thousands of dollars.

**Free Scholarships.**

In this connection, also, I desire to call your attention to one abuse which you should stop—that is, allowing any one family, at the expense of other families, to educate all of its children in the institutions of the State. You will find, upon investigation, where brothers and sisters, out of one family, one after the other, have been educated free by the State. You will find where two boys of the same family, and sometimes two girls of the same family, are receiving free scholarships at the same session. I most assuredly do not think this is right. Free scholarships are proper, but they should be divided among the people, and not all poured into the laps of a few families. Some of you might be surprised if you would investigate some of your free scholarships and see who are holding them and how many sons and daughters of the same man have been educated under them. One boy or one girl in an institution can teach his next older brother or her next older sister with a view to the next examination, and these next younger children will then be prepared to stand the examination, to the exclusion of other boys and girls who have not had such advantages, amounting to a perpetuation of free scholarships in one family, which is not right.

However, in speaking of your higher institutions of learning, I desire to call your attention to the improvements which have been made—the new buildings which have been erected, the new
equipment which has been installed, and other advancements which have been made during the four years I have been Governor, at Winthrop, at the Citadel, at the Institute for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, at the University of South Carolina, at the South Carolina Industrial School at Florence—at the latter institution two handsome brick buildings having been put up during my administration.

It has been said that Blease did not build Winthrop or Clemson. No, I did not. We already had them, and it would have been very foolish to have attempted to build other institutions just like them.

I am reminded in this connection of a little true story. Some good many years ago a boy in Newberry went to see a girl and found her very much interested in reading a certain book. Upon being asked where she got it, she told him that a certain young man, his rival for her affections, had given it to her, and that it was the sweetest book she had ever read. This young man next morning went down to the book store and bought an exact copy of the very same book and sent it to the young lady, with a little note, as follows: "You enjoyed reading the book given you by Mr. —— so much, that you will please accept this one with my compliments." I am satisfied the young lady had no use for the second volume of the book, and South Carolina would certainly have no use for a second edition of any of her present institutions. What we want to do is to add to and build up those which we have, and certainly we should not be so ignorant or prejudiced as to say that all of them have not materially improved in the four years I have been Governor, notwithstanding the fact that I have fought extravagance in connection with their maintenance, and have often used the veto power.

The Medical College of South Carolina.

I am very proud, however, to say that there has been one State institution added to our assets since I have been Governor—one which, in my opinion, will prove of more benefit than any single one of the others, or possibly of more benefit than all of the others together. I refer to the State Medical College at Charleston. Its curriculum today stands at the very top. It will soon rank second to no medical institution in America, and when our young men graduate there they will not need to go anywhere else to finish their course, but they will be prepared to fight all the diseases known to mankind, and as proficient in medical science as any other doctors in the world. The other institutions can be of great advantage,
but if disease should take hold of the children of the graduates of these other institutions the advantage obtained at the college, without the assistance of the physician, would be of little benefit. The Medical College will turn out him who can answer the call of his brother or sister from the other institutions, and fight the plague, whatever it might be, that would be eating the life of our citizenship.

The establishment of this institution would alone be enough, in my opinion, to signalize my administration as one having accomplished much for the people of my State.

I hope that you will be neither stingy nor extravagant in dealing with this institution, but deal with her fairly and squarely, without prejudice, and I am satisfied that in a few short years every Carolinian, wherever he may be, will be proud of his Medical College.

THE HOSIERY MILL.

In speaking of diseases, I desire to quote from an editorial which appeared in The Columbia State of November 17, 1914:

"Neglect and Effect.—Recently there was published in the State press, and throughout the country, the statement that the death rate from consumption in South Carolina was 13.5 per cent. per thousand, as against a rate for the country at large of 10 per cent.," etc. "In other words, South Carolina is nationally advertised as having a high death rate from this most dreadful disease, and thereby giving it a bad name, and possibly preventing the acquisition both of new residents and new capital."

Yet this is the same newspaper that fought me so bitterly when I was trying so desperately to do away with the tuberculosis or consumption incubator at the State Penitentiary, and today there are people in South Carolina suffering from consumption which was contracted by them in coming in contact with prisoners who were confined in this hosiery mill. Just a few days ago it was brought to my official attention that a prisoner who had gone back home and slept with another citizen had died and that the citizen whom he had been rooming with was in desperate condition from consumption. No doubt there are many other similar instances in this State. This was one thing that I dreaded and fought so actively from the very beginning of my administration. It took me a long time to accomplish the result, but I am proud to say that the fight was won, and in years to come, if nothing else is said of the Blease administration, I shall be proud to know that it was Blease and Blease's fight that wiped out of existence this infernal
death-trap, and I am glad that the newspaper from which I have quoted has awakened even at this late day to a realization of the fact that this disease is injuring not only our own people physically, but injuring us in the matter of receiving new citizens and new capital.

I hope that the Vital Statistics Act, which I approved recently, will prove of as much value to the people of our State as is expected.

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL.

I desire to call your attention to that part of my annual message of 1914 which dealt with this subject:

"It is useless for me to call your attention to the terrible ravages of tuberculosis in this State, as well as in every other section of the country. This deadly disease is one of the greatest scourges with which we are afflicted. It is not only our duty, but it is certainly directly to our own personal interests, to make every endeavor to stamp it out, co-operating with those who are devoting their lives in this great effort, and in the meantime to lessen its ravages as much as we can. I, therefore, recommend that you set aside a suitable piece of land owned by the State, and that you make sufficient appropriation for the erection thereon of a tuberculosis sanitarium for the treatment of this disease."

I am glad to be able to say that progress has been made along this line. My suggestions have been adopted, and a piece of land has been set aside for the erection of this hospital. I hope that much good will result from the Legislature adopting my idea along this line.

CONDITIONS CONFRONTING US.

None regrets more than I do the terrible panic which has come upon our country. Without claiming to be a prophet, I can truly say that I foresaw the present condition, as will be shown by reference to my messages to the General Assembly, and more particularly to my veto messages on appropriation bills. You will see there where I continually warned the General Assembly to beware of extravagance, in one of my messages using the words that if a panic were to strike this country our people could not pay their taxes and they would be in a deplorable condition. Some of you probably laughed and said such a panic could not happen. I stated that such panics had happened and were liable to come again.
At the last session I repeated this warning and begged the General Assembly to be careful.

I am very much amused at the position some people now take, which is so very different from the position they took this summer. I do not see any fifteen cent cotton. I have not as yet seen any billion dollars sent into the State to buy the cotton crop as soon as it was marketable. I have not seen that agricultural money that was to be loaned the farmers. But I have seen farmers' property being taken and sold, and I have heard the farmers clamoring for relief.

My messages to the General Assembly of 1914 speak for themselves along this line.

I notice the confession of a person published in The Columbia Record of December 14. The president of the State Farmers' Union uses these words: "Now, as one who honestly thought that there could be found ways and means by the government to help us, I feel that it is time to make some plain observations, and if possible burn into the minds of the farmers of this country that their only hope is in themselves." These were the very words, gentlemen, that were used by me in the campaign last summer—that the farmers had to help themselves, that the national government could not, and would not, help them. The people who were then clamoring that the national government could, and would, must have known that it was all for political purpose, or if they did not know it, they are forced to realize it now. They were either densely ignorant, or they knew that there was not a word of truth in it. Gentlemen, as I stated then, they knew that they were deceiving the people who had not studied the situation, but they were willing to stoop to any means to accomplish their ends. I am glad to say, in the words of another, they may fool all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but they can't fool all of the people all of the time, and the time when they won't fool them, in my opinion, is just about 18 or 19 months off.

THE STATE'S PROSPERITY.

I am very proud, indeed, in this connection to transmit to you two letters of recent date which show you very plainly, notwithstanding the fact that the newspapers belched forth long editorials to the effect that if Blease was elected Governor South Carolina would be ruined, that Northern and other capital would be withdrawn from her borders, and that no more foreign capital would
come into the State, that during the four years that Blease has been Governor South Carolina has had the largest increase in her history in taxable values, and that last year, even through all the bitterness of the campaign, the increase was over ten million dollars. How does this compare with the campaign slogan that "Blease will ruin the State?"

Columbia, South Carolina, November 26th, 1914.

Hon. A. W. Jones, Comptroller General:

Dear Sir: Will you please be so kind as to furnish me with the amount of taxable property of the State of South Carolina for the year 1910, and for the four years of my administration—1911, 1912, 1913 and 1914?

I desire to use this information in an article on the industry and prosperity of our State, and will ask that you give it absolutely accurately, and at your earliest convenience.

Very respectfully,

COLE, L. BLEASE,
Governor.

Executive Department,
Office of Comptroller General,

Hon. Cole. L. Blease, Governor, Columbia, S. C.:

Dear Sir: Complying with your request of the 26th, I beg to state that the amount of taxable property in the State of South Carolina from 1910 to 1914, is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>$279,755,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>287,132,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>291,531,003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>297,001,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>307,178,882</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yours very truly,

AWJ/M.

A. W. JONES,
Comptroller General.

November 26th, 1914.

Hon. R. M. McCown, Secretary of State, Columbia, S. C.:

Dear Sir: Will you please be so kind as to furnish me with the amount of capital invested in this State for the years 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913 and 1914, and amounts received from corporations for charter fees during said periods, giving each year separately?
I desire to use this information in an article on the industry and prosperity of our State, and will ask that you give it absolutely accurately, and at your earliest convenience.

Very respectfully, COLE. L. BLEASE,
Governor.

Department of State, South Carolina,
R. M. McCOWN, Secretary of State,
Columbia, Nov. 27, 1914.

HON. COLE. L. BLEASE, Governor, Columbia, S. C.:

Dear Sir: In reply to yours of November 26th, the record in this office shows that there was collected in fees for the granting of charters, on capital stock authorized—

For the year 1910..........................$17,060 61
For the year 1911.......................... 23,150 06
For the year 1912.......................... 20,490 30
For the year 1913.......................... 14,671 67
For the year 1914, up to and including Oct 31,.. 16,022 70

I cannot give you the amount of capital invested, as the above figures represent the fees on authorized capital only. As you know, the law requires the subscription of fifty per cent. only of the authorized capital as a precedent for organization of corporations. We, therefore, have no way of knowing what amount above the legal requirement of fifty per cent. has been subscribed.

Yours very truly, W. B. DOVE,
Asst. Secty. of State.

The books of the Secretary of State show that the total amount of charter fees for 1914, up to and including December 31, were increased during the last quarter to $16,843.30.

The total fees collected by the Secretary of State in 1914 amounted to $23,290.81, according to a final statement issued by R. M. McCown. The fees collected in 1913 amounted to $21,406.87. The fees in 1912 were $27,081.85 and $35,905.92 in 1911, the best record for the office. During the year 469 new concerns were chartered by the Secretary of State.

In order to make this as plain as possible, using the figures quoted by newspapers which have fought me bitterly, I insert, also, articles published in The Columbia State and The Columbia Record of November 17, 1914:
"The taxable property in South Carolina increased $10,177,324 during twelve months, according to a statement completed by A. W. Jones, Comptroller General. The taxable value of all property in 1914 is $307,175,882, as compared with $297,001,558 in 1913."

"The value of all real estate in 1914 was $162,431,612 and $154,143,892 in 1913, an increase of $5,887,720. The value of all personal property in 1914 was $100,824,187 and $99,074,157 in 1913, which is an increase of $1,750,030. The value of railroad property in 1914 was $43,923,083 and $43,783,509 in 1913.

"The aggregate of taxes for all purposes in 1914 will be $5,892,691.65. The aggregate in 1913 was $5,706,366.52.

"Following shows the total value of all taxable property in each county of the State:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>1913</th>
<th>1914</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbeville</td>
<td>$6,028,946</td>
<td>$6,067,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aiken</td>
<td>11,289,200</td>
<td>11,475,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>13,494,930</td>
<td>13,506,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bamberg</td>
<td>3,130,860</td>
<td>3,239,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnwell</td>
<td>6,174,120</td>
<td>6,373,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaufort</td>
<td>3,125,750</td>
<td>3,491,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berkeley</td>
<td>3,642,680</td>
<td>4,145,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>2,502,080</td>
<td>2,527,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>27,020,944</td>
<td>27,293,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee</td>
<td>5,589,653</td>
<td>5,652,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester</td>
<td>7,199,572</td>
<td>6,812,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesterfield</td>
<td>4,320,960</td>
<td>4,533,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarendon</td>
<td>4,049,250</td>
<td>4,235,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleton</td>
<td>4,177,170</td>
<td>4,254,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darlington</td>
<td>6,538,322</td>
<td>6,599,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dillon</td>
<td>3,913,720</td>
<td>4,041,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorchester</td>
<td>3,210,330</td>
<td>3,243,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgefield</td>
<td>4,415,653</td>
<td>4,675,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield</td>
<td>5,054,954</td>
<td>5,402,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence</td>
<td>7,863,504</td>
<td>8,509,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>4,211,575</td>
<td>4,160,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenville</td>
<td>15,965,735</td>
<td>16,515,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenwood</td>
<td>7,038,580</td>
<td>7,339,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton</td>
<td>3,160,268</td>
<td>3,299,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horry</td>
<td>3,086,675</td>
<td>3,291,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td>2,551,034</td>
<td>2,637,614</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The taxable property in South Carolina increased $10,177,324 during twelve months, according to a statement completed by A. W. Jones, Comptroller General. The taxable value of all property in 1914 is $307,178,882, as compared with $297,001,558 in 1913.

The value of all real estate in 1914 was $162,431,612 and $154,143,892 in 1913, or an increase of $5,887,720. The value of all personal property in 1914 was $100,824,187 and $99,074,157 in 1913, which is an increase of $1,750,030. The value of railroad property in 1914 was $43,923,083 and $43,783,509 in 1913.

The aggregate of taxes for all purposes in 1914 will be $5,892,691.65. The aggregate in 1913 was $5,706,366.52.

Following shows the total value of all taxable property in each county of the State:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>1913</th>
<th>1914</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbeville</td>
<td>$6,028,986</td>
<td>$6,067,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aiken</td>
<td>$11,289,200</td>
<td>$11,475,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>$3,494,930</td>
<td>$3,306,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bamberg</td>
<td>$3,130,360</td>
<td>$3,239,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnwell</td>
<td>$6,174,120</td>
<td>$6,373,990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Columbia Record, Nov. 17, 1914.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>1913</th>
<th>1914</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beaufort</td>
<td>3,125,750</td>
<td>3,491,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berkeley</td>
<td>3,462,660</td>
<td>3,344,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>2,502,080</td>
<td>2,527,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>27,020,944</td>
<td>27,293,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee</td>
<td>5,589,653</td>
<td>4,652,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester</td>
<td>7,199,572</td>
<td>6,813,983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesterfield</td>
<td>4,049,850</td>
<td>4,533,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarendon</td>
<td>4,049,250</td>
<td>4,233,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleton</td>
<td>4,177,170</td>
<td>4,256,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darlington</td>
<td>6,538,322</td>
<td>6,599,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dillon</td>
<td>3,913,720</td>
<td>4,047,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorchester</td>
<td>3,210,330</td>
<td>3,243,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgefield</td>
<td>4,475,653</td>
<td>4,675,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield</td>
<td>5,054,954</td>
<td>5,402,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence</td>
<td>7,863,304</td>
<td>8,509,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>4,211,575</td>
<td>4,160,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenville</td>
<td>15,865,725</td>
<td>16,515,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenwood</td>
<td>7,038,580</td>
<td>7,339,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton</td>
<td>3,160,868</td>
<td>3,899,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horry</td>
<td>3,086,675</td>
<td>3,291,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td>2,551,034</td>
<td>2,657,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kershaw</td>
<td>4,948,855</td>
<td>3,280,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>3,519,515</td>
<td>3,544,580</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurens</td>
<td>7,201,235</td>
<td>7,325,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>3,504,759</td>
<td>3,547,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexington</td>
<td>5,377,659</td>
<td>5,570,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>3,785,893</td>
<td>3,794,452</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marlboro</td>
<td>4,832,326</td>
<td>5,044,037</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newberry</td>
<td>7,809,216</td>
<td>7,316,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oconee</td>
<td>4,783,880</td>
<td>4,903,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orangeburg</td>
<td>8,689,390</td>
<td>9,104,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickens</td>
<td>4,027,469</td>
<td>4,310,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richland</td>
<td>19,878,195</td>
<td>22,751,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saluda</td>
<td>2,643,867</td>
<td>2,547,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spartanburg</td>
<td>19,288,327</td>
<td>20,116,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>7,758,392</td>
<td>7,738,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>6,699,300</td>
<td>6,857,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamsburg</td>
<td>4,902,505</td>
<td>5,061,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>9,200,120</td>
<td>9,136,738</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$297,001,558  $307,173,532
I also quote you figures from *The Columbia State* of December 23, 1914, as follows:

"New enterprises authorized during the past twelve months by the Secretary of State for South Carolina have an aggregate capital stock of $10,931,490. This total is to December 22, and before the end of the year the amount may run to $11,000,000. Richland leads all of the counties of the State with $3,952,300 invested in various kinds of enterprises during the year. Charleston is second with $1,411,500.

"Following investments have been made in each of the counties of the State:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Investment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbeville</td>
<td>$512,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aiken</td>
<td>99,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>613,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bamberg</td>
<td>125,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnwell</td>
<td>27,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaufort</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berkeley</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun</td>
<td>26,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>1,411,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee</td>
<td>38,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester</td>
<td>83,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesterfield</td>
<td>118,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarendon</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleton</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darlington</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dillon</td>
<td>14,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorchester</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgefield</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield</td>
<td>251,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence</td>
<td>679,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>363,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenwood</td>
<td>44,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hampton</td>
<td>29,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horry</td>
<td>88,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kershaw</td>
<td>4,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>77,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurens</td>
<td>123,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>13,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I also quote you figures published in a newspaper, which were given out by department officials, showing large increases along other lines:

"STATE'S INDUSTRIES PAID $300,000 MORE IN WAGES FOR YEAR.

"The annual report of Commissioner Watson, of the State Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries, now being prepared for submission to the General Assembly, will show that the total capital invested in this State increased considerably during the year 1914, with an increase of about $300,000 in the total of wages paid for that period, for all of the 22 leading industries. Figures showing the total capital invested were not available.

"The Commissioner asserted that out of the $25,000,000 in round numbers in wages being paid annually in this State by all industries, only about $1,500,000 is now earned by children under the age of 16 years, which amount he described as a 'mere bagatelle' in the 'economic wage situation.'

"The figures for this year of amounts paid out in wages will show a marked tendency toward the employment of young people above the age of 16 years, rather than below. The annual report on textiles will show that a number of mills have voluntarily discontinued the employing of child labor under the age of 14 years.'

"Commissioner Watson stated that the 3,500 children of the State under 14 years of age 'could not possibly earn more than $680,000 in aggregate wages per year, should they work every..."
day, Sundays excepted. I don’t suppose that one-third of that sum is represented in their annual aggregate earnings. It appears quite likely that only one-half of this number is employed throughout the year, which would, I estimate, result in $350,000 being earned annually by children under 14 years of age, while the total amount paid annually by the textile industry of this State in wages is $15,000,000.

"GAME PROTECTION FUND IS INCREASED $3,107 DURING 1914.

"Annual report to the General Assembly of Chief Game Warden A. A. Richardson, completed and made public yesterday, shows that this department collected $9,183.61 in fines during 1914, as compared with $3,790.13 obtained from fines during 1913, an increase of $5,393.48. The running expenses of the department necessitated expenditures totalling $6,076.50, leaving a balance for the year of $3,107.11, which was placed to the credit of the game protection fund, in the State treasury.

"This increase (in fines) is due to better organization of the game warden forces and to the fact that the people of this State are becoming more in favor of game protection each year," said the Chief Warden in a statement regarding the year’s work of the department.

"Regarding the growth of the game protection department of this State, Chief Warden Richardson stated:

"On assuming the duties of Chief Game Warden on March 7, 1913, I found that the department had no money whatsoever to its credit—on the other hand, it was in debt. The State makes no provision for furnishing any office, office fixtures or anything of the kind for the use of this department. Not having any money on hand to rent suitable offices, we started out with our headquarters in an outhouse in my father’s back yard on Barnwell street. As soon as the conditions improved we moved to 1302 Main street, and finished out the year of 1913 in that building. We now have our headquarters on the 13th floor of the Palmetto Bank building, with nice office furniture and all of the necessary fixtures for the department, all of which are paid for and are the property of the game protection fund."

RUIN?

Does this look like Blease ruined the State? Some people may yet want more of this kind of ruin.
DECREASE OF LAWLESSNESS.

In this connection, I quote you the following figures from the reports of the Solicitors, as filed with the Attorney General, in order to show that lawlessness has not only not increased in the State, but that it has decreased, under my administration:

**Solicitors' Reports.**

"The Solicitors' reports on file in Attorney General's office for the last two years of Governor Ansel's administration, and for the first two years of Governor Blease's administration, show:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>No Bill and Not Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Average number cases 1909 and 1910, 2,526.
"Average number cases 1911 and 1912, 2,123.
"Difference in average between last two years of Governor Ansel and first two years of Governor Blease, 403, in favor of Governor Blease's administration."

I particularly call to your attention the report of Solicitor Robert A. Cooper, of the Eighth Circuit, who was a candidate for Governor in the recent primary, and who had much to say about the lawlessness of the present administration:

"Laurens, January 1.—Robert A. Cooper, Solicitor of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, has forwarded to the Attorney General's office his annual report for 1914.

"The report shows that for the four counties in this district, Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens and Newberry, the total number of cases handled was 205, which is a decrease of about 18 per cent. over previous years."

Does this report of his bear out his charges of lawlessness? Surely I might ask:

"Tell me, ye winged winds,
That round my pathway roar,
When will Solicitor Cooper
Report some more?"
ECONOMY OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

In addition to these matters, I desire to call your attention to the fact that money was borrowed at the lowest rate of interest that the State has ever known—three and one-half per cent.—during my administration as Governor.

I have also saved the State thousands of dollars by my policy in reference to requisitions and rewards, and by returning to the State treasury each year a substantial amount from the appropriations made for the Governor's office. These facts of official record show that I was careful in the handling of the people's money, and that I watched every item of expenditure.

The State has never had a more economical, nor has it ever had a more prosperous administration, notwithstanding the conditions, for which we are not responsible in the South, which have brought upon us this financial crisis. As an instance, I call your attention to the fact that the charter fees received by the Secretary of State during the four years I have been Governor have been the largest ever received in the history of the State.

THE COMMON SCHOOLS.

It is gratifying to note the condition of the common schools of the State. We have better schoolhouses, the teachers are receiving better salaries, and the entire system is in better shape than ever before in the history of our State. It is with great pride that I refer to the recommendation which I made for a special tax levy for the common schools, and can now point to the results. I have no hesitation in saying that it can not be successfully questioned that during the past four years, under my administration, more has been done by the State for the common schools, and that they are now in better condition, than ever before. I recommend that you be liberal to the common schools. It is in these schools that most of the boys and girls of this State receive the only education which they can secure, and they here prepare themselves for the duties of life.

I want to reiterate a paragraph of my annual message of 1914, with an expression of appreciation of what has already been done in this regard:

"My position as to our educational institutions has been stated to you fully so often that it hardly needs repetition here. I favor liberal but not extravagant support of our higher institutions, and I favor liberal and adequate support of our free public schools, so
that the little country children, many of whom can never receive any training except that of the country school, may secure an education which will prepare them for the battles of life. There can be no question that the country schools have been too much neglected. There can be no question that they have received too little in comparison with the big appropriations lavished upon our higher institutions. I would not do aught to injure one of our State institutions, but the people of South Carolina today are demanding, and justly demanding, in no uncertain terms, that the children of the country districts and of the mill villages shall receive their just share of the State's appropriations for educational purposes. We should support our higher institutions, but we should steer clear of extravagance, and we should provide adequate facilities to give every white child in South Carolina a common school education, in comfortable schoolhouses, under the training of good teachers who are paid sufficient salaries to do the work. The people do not need and they do not want compulsory education; what they need and what they want and what they demand, and what they are going to have, is adequate school facilities."

AN AMUSING INCIDENT.

I have called attention to the serious condition which confronts us, and it may not be amiss to insert an amusing incident. I quote herewith a little article from the *Sunday News*, of Charleston, S. C., Sunday morning, December 13, 1914, second part, page nine, column seven:

"*People's Forum Tonight—Senator Christensen on Need of Board of Charities.*

"'South Carolina's Need of a State Board of Charities,' will be the subject of Senator Niels Christensen's address at the People's Forum tonight at 8:30. Senator Christensen is to offer a bill at the next session of the Legislature to establish in this State a board of charities based on the Virginia law. The topic is timely and the speaker a man of exceptional ability. A large attendance is expected."

The same paper, second part, page twelve, on the same day, contained the following:

"Columbia, December 12.—Special: 'I have worked "niggers" in South Carolina, but I never thought I would meet him thus in battle.

"It's a shame and humiliation.

"England has brought these uncivilized animals over to fight her civilized sister nation, Germany.

"I repeat, it is a disgrace, and England has lost her face for all time. History can only write "shame" for its coming generation.

"Without a doubt England long ago planned with France and Russia to unite with her and crush Germany. I feel sure that we will be victorious, for it is the esprit in each soldier which will bring us victory.'

"These statements are taken from a letter received by E. J. Watson, State Commissioner of Agriculture, from the Countess Wedel, now in Hanover, and are parts of a letter received by the Countess from her husband, Count Wedel, now with the German army in France. The letter gives an idea of war time life in Germany.

"Count Wedel had been a resident of Columbia, S. C., for seven years. Just before the outbreak of the war in Europe he went for a visit to his old home. When the mobilization order was signed by the Kaiser he went into the service as a second lieutenant, and for his bravery has received rapid promotion. He now commands a division and recently was the recipient of the famous Iron Cross for exceptional bravery."

I say "amusing," because they are so much alike (?).

The father of the Senator spoken of in the first clipping was the captain of a negro company in the Union Army, who fought South Carolina soldiers of the Confederacy, with his negro troops, face to face, on the soil of South Carolina. This Senator from Beaufort is now chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate and member of the State Sinking Fund Commission. Surely there must be hope for the sons of the captains of the companies of which Count Wedel speaks.

I am informed that soon the grandson of another person, who was very prominently connected with the administration of South Carolina, in her negro-Republican-scalawag days of disgrace, will
be honored with a very high and prominent position in this State. It would seem, therefore, that those who have disgraced their State and themselves, need no longer fear that their children and grandchildren will not be rewarded for their parents' or their grandparents' treachery, and, possibly, corruption.

FEDERAL ENCROACHMENT UPON STATE RIGHTS.

Once again, gentlemen, I call to your attention the encroachment by the Federal Government upon State rights, and I desire to quote you, in this connection, the words of that great South Carolinian, our acknowledged leader and champion, Robert Y. Hayne. In the speech which he delivered in the United States Senate, in his celebrated debate with Webster, he said:

"The people whom I represent are the friends of the Union—and who are its enemies? Those who are constantly stealing power from the States and adding strength to the Federal government."

What think the people of our State today, and who is it that is "stealing power from the States and adding strength to the Federal government?" Can it be possible that, under the lead of a man sometimes called a Southerner, the Democratic party is to become the party that is "stealing power from the States" and giving it to the Federal government, and that the Republican party, under the lead of a Hughes or a Whitman, is to become the State rights party, and stop this "stealing of power" spoken of by Mr. Hayne?

I desire to call your attention to that part of my annual message of 1914 which dealt with this grave question. Since that time more power has been "stolen" from the States, and given to the Federal government, and more of this power is now sought to be "stolen." And, to the surprise of those who loved and fought for the Southern Confederacy, and those of a later generation who now love its memory, and hold sacred the cause for which the Southern armies battled, we find many of those whose fathers and brothers, yea, some who themselves fought for this cause, and who themselves today owe their lives and freedom to it, now taking part in this "stealing of power" as described by Mr. Hayne. Can it be possible that, by the records of Southern Senators and Congressmen, generations yet unborn will be led to believe that the Northern historian recorded the truth when he wrote, that the Southern soldiers, led by those matchless leaders, Robert E. Lee
and Stonewall Jackson, and the other gallant men who made that fight, made it only to keep the negro from being a freeman, and not in defence of their honest convictions in behalf of State rights? God forbid it. We love the cause too dearly. We know the Southern Confederacy fought for a higher and nobler purpose, and surely those who represent us will be too manly and too brave and too patriotic to permit the motives of their forefathers and of their own people, in one of the greatest struggles the world has ever known, to be regarded by coming generations as low and contemptible. Surely they will protect the glorious heritage which has been handed down to us of the South.

Further, along this line, I desire to quote you from the remarks of another Southerner, one who fought for State rights in times of peace and in times of war. I refer to the remarks of Justice L. Q. C. Lamar, in an oration delivered on the Honorable John C. Calhoun:

"The American Union is a democratic federal republic, a political system compounded of the separate governments of the several States and one common government of all the States, called the Government of the United States. Each was created by written Constitution, those of the particular States by the people of each acting separately, and that of the United States by the people of each in its sovereign capacity, but acting jointly. The entire powers of government are divided between the two—those lodged in the general government being delegated by specific and enumerated grants in the Constitution; and all others not delegated being reserved to the States, respectively, or to the people. The powers of each are sovereign, and neither derives its power from the other. In their respective spheres neither is subordinate to the other, but co-ordinate, and being co-ordinate, each has the right of protecting its own powers from the encroachments of the other, the two combined forming one entire and perfect government. The line of demarcation between the delegated powers to the Federal government and the powers reserved to the States is plain, inasmuch as all the powers delegated to the general government are expressly laid down, and those not delegated are reserved to the States unless specially prohibited.

"The greater part of the powers delegated to the general government relate directly or indirectly to two great divisions of authority: the one pertaining to the foreign relations of the country; the other of an internal character, and pertaining to the
exterior relations of the States, the purposes for which the Constitution was formed being power, security, and respectability without, and peace, tranquility, and harmony within."

I quote to you, also, some remarks of Mr. Jefferson, as far back as the year 1821:

"It is a fatal heresy to suppose that either our State governments are superior to the Federal, or the Federal to the State; neither is authorized literally to decide which belongs to itself or its copartner in government. In differences of opinion between their different sets of public servants, the appeal is to neither, but to their employers peaceably assembled by their representatives in convention."

In a letter, written about the same time, he said:

"I see, as you do, and with the deepest affliction, the rapid strides with which the Federal branch of our government is advancing towards the usurpation of all the rights reserved to the States, and the consolidation in itself of all powers, foreign and domestic, and that, too, by constructions which leave no limits to their powers, etc. Under the right to regulate commerce, they assume, indefinitely, that also over agriculture and manufactures, etc. Under the authority to establish post-roads, they claim that of cutting down mountains for the construction of roads and digging canals, etc."

In an oration delivered by Patrick Henry, in the Virginia Convention of the Commonwealth of Virginia, on the adoption of the Federal Constitution, he said:

"The officers of Congress may come upon you now, fortified with all the terrors of paramount Federal authority. Excisemen may come in multitudes; for the limitation of their numbers no man knows. They may, unless the general government be restrained, go into your cellars and rooms, and search, ransack, and measure, everything you eat, drink and wear. They ought to be restrained within proper bounds."

Subsequent events have proved the truth of these predictions, and we are today facing the very situation which Patrick Henry and the other great leaders of that day warned their people against.

I would like, if time and space permitted, to quote to you the remarks of Louis Kossuth, on "Local Self-Government," in an address at the Congressional Banquet in Washington, January 7th, 1852, on the occasion of his visit to the United States. "We
Hungarians," he said, "are very fond of the principle of municipal self-government; and we have a natural horror against the principle of centralization. That fond attachment to municipal self-government, without which there is no provincial freedom possible, is a fundamental feature of our national character. We brought it with us from far Asia, a thousand years ago, and we conserved it throughout the vicissitudes of ten centuries."

His speech was one of the most forcible, and one of the most eloquent, which it has been my pleasure to read upon this great subject, which should be dear to the heart of every American citizen, and, particularly, every Southerner.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, then Premier of Canada, in an address delivered in Chicago, in 1899, said:

"There was a civil war in the last century. There was a civil war between England, then, and her colonies. The union which then existed between England and her colonies was severed. If it was severed, American citizens, as you know it was, through no fault of your fathers, the fault was altogether the fault of the British government of that day. If the British government of that day had treated the American colonies as the British government for the last twenty or fifty years has treated its colonies; if Great Britain had given you then the same degree of liberty which it gives to Canada, my country; if it had given you, as it has given us, legislative independence absolute, the result would have been different—the course of victory, the course of history, would have been different."

This war of which Premier Laurier spoke was for local self-government. So was the war of 1861-1865. Will the United States see another?

Gentlemen, this is one of the most serious matters confronting our people today, and I feel that I have but done my duty in thus calling it to your attention.

AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS OF STATE OFFICERS.

In my annual message to the General Assembly, in January, 1912, I stated, under this head: "I recommend that you appoint, or have appointed, experts of the highest character and ability to make a thorough examination into and check up all vouchers, bonds, books and other papers in all of the State offices. While the legislative committee makes its check, many of you have been on those committees and you know how it is done, and from the
time allowed, we all know that it is merely a formal matter. Therefore, you should have a thorough audit of all departments."

I realized, then, gentlemen, the necessity of having these offices properly checked up and audited, in order that not only the officials themselves, but that others as well, might at a moment’s notice be fully informed as to the condition of any State institution or any department of the State.

I strongly urge that you have the experts appointed, and have checked up and thoroughly audited all the books and accounts of every State institution, and of every State office, and I shall be pleased, so far as I am concerned, to render all possible assistance to those who may be selected for this work. In regard to the Governor’s office, you will find attached to every voucher that has been paid by the Comptroller General for this office and the Governor’s Mansion, during my term, the original accounts for which the amounts were paid. If there be any exception to this, I do not know it, but if so, will be glad to furnish whatever information is necessary in regard thereto, and would be pleased at the opportunity to do so.

STATE LEVY.

I am proud to state to you today that the treasury is not empty, but is in good condition; that the government is able to meet its current expenditures; that all our institutions are meeting with success; and that our financial affairs, notwithstanding the fearful crisis which has come upon us, are in good shape. It is true some of the institutions may have a deficit, but this has been the experience for years. It is true we have had to borrow money, but we have had to borrow money for years. And I desire to say once again what I have often said on the floor of the House and of the Senate, and what I have said in my messages as Governor—you gentlemen should not be extravagant, but when you make appropriations you should have the manliness and the political courage to make your State levy sufficient to meet your appropriations, and not be so cowardly as to be afraid to raise the State levy sufficient to take care of the expenditures which you provide for. By making the levy sufficient, you would prevent these deficits which have been going on for years and years.

FORMER CONVICTS.

It has been reported and rumored—whether true or not, I do not know, and therefore am not in position to state—that some
former convicts are being held and required to work in payment of efforts used to secure their release. If this is true, it is a great pity that any man would be guilty of such conduct—a great pity that he would so treat one of his unfortunate fellow beings. I therefore recommend that you investigate this matter, in order to ascertain if there are any former convicts being so held, either on the farms of any of the directors of the State Penitentiary, or any of the officials of the State Penitentiary, or anywhere else by anybody.

IMMIGRATION.

I recently attended a Southern Immigration Congress, held in Washington. While upon the floor of the United States Senate, I heard a Senator make this statement, in speaking of the Immigration Bill:

"This bill is framed upon the idea that if a white man happens to be born under any other flag than ours he is therefore not fit to live under this flag. I confess the doctrine nauseates me. It is narrow. It is the philosophy of cowardice. It is a cry from the lips of the man who is afraid of competition."

On account of the great importance of this subject at this time, I quote you in full the address which I made before the Immigration Congress, in order that you may see the position which was taken by me. The subject of immigration is one which should receive your serious thought.

My address in Washington, as reported by Official Stenographer Holmes, follows:

ADDRESS BEFORE IMMIGRATION CONGRESS.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I fear that my ideas on immigration might be somewhat contrary to those of a great many who are members of this convention. I have never been one of those who believed that any South Carolina citizen was afraid to compete in any line or occupation with any man from any portion of the civilized world. We want in our State good people; we don't want to deal with them from a question of charity; we know how to exercise charity, and we do exercise it to a great extent, but we want immigrants from a business standpoint—men who can be of service to us, and men to whom we can be of service. (Applause.)

We can take care of a great many good families. I do not agree with the policy that men should be highly educated in order to be immigrants, nor to be received into my State, because
regret to say that if you will apply that test, a good many that we have got might have to migrate to some other country! (Applause.) We want a laboring citizenship. We do not want a priest-ridden citizenship, as was mentioned here this morning. We want men who recognize God as their adviser, and the Bible as their creed, and no priest or no minister! (Applause.) That's the citizenship we want. We do not want a citizenship which takes from the minister or priest what should be his Christianity, on what type of manhood or citizen he should make. We want the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ to be his guide, and manual labor or an occupation or a profession to be to us what we hope to be to him, a benefit, and not a drawback.

South Carolina had a rather unpleasant experience along the line of immigration which has created within our State a deep prejudice. A few years ago we established an immigration bureau. Unfortunately, we put at its head a man who knew absolutely nothing about the situation. We paid his way across the country, and across the water, and he came back with a boatload—about the best way I can express it is—of nothings! (Laughter.) He landed at Charleston. They scattered them around over my State, and it was but a short time until we discovered that we had the riff-raff of the world. Through good fortune, we have not any of them left. We got rid of them, but that misjudgment created a prejudice against immigrants in my State which we have been trying to overcome.

Now, we have got some good immigrants in my country. We want some more. We want a good Christian people. One of the speakers said this morning that if a man wanted to be noticed he must do something bad. That's a pretty good policy in some respects, but we do not want that kind of unstable crowd in South Carolina. We want those who will do something good. We can take care of a good many families.

Today you are collecting money all over this country to send to people across the water for charity. Send South Carolina one hundred and fifty good families of those people and we will take care of them right now! (Applause.) We will furnish them something to live on, we will put them on the farms, and we will stock the farms. We will not ask them to do it; all we will ask them to do is, as the gentleman said here this morning, to prove themselves worthy, not from a charitable standpoint, of our assistance. We will furnish them the stock; we will furnish them the
land; we will furnish them something to eat; we will furnish them something to wear, and we will give them an opportunity to make good. That's the position that South Carolina takes on immigration—at least this part of South Carolina! (Laughter and applause.)

I understand that we have some Representatives from South Carolina who want to draw great restrictions around immigration, who only want immigration after certain tests and certain judgments upon those who desire to come. Well, if their judgment is no better than that of the man who went abroad to represent us, and brought back with him the boatload of undesirable immigrants, we will be in the same condition when we get through as we were when that other fellow finished up his work. Therefore, we want to back our own judgment, and if you gentlemen will establish a policy that will give to us the same class of citizenship as those men who have helped us to build up South Carolina, we will help them.

We are not afraid of the immigration question. I have been recently in States far from my own, and I wish most heartily that we could swap some of our native-borns for some of those who come over from the old country, and who are making of the great Northwest one of the greatest sections we have! (Applause.)

We are tired of hearing about this question. Why, I sat in the Senate chamber the other morning, and I heard a Senator make the statement that there sat in the Vice President's chair at that time, presiding over the greatest deliberative body that the world has ever known, a man who landed in this country a few years ago with only three dollars in his pocket, and who could not speak a word of the English language; yet that day, after having served his State as its Governor, and today serving as its representative in that great body, he sat there as the presiding officer of the United States Senate. And yet some people tell me that they are afraid of immigrants! We are afraid of the anarchist; we are afraid of some elements of people who destroy people and who care nothing for life. But I am proud to say to you, as the representative of my State, that we do not fear any immigrant who is willing to make an honest living, who believes in giving to his neighbor the same privilege that he has himself, and who at night kneels at his bedside, and thanks his God for what He has done for him, and who asks his Maker to make of himself and of his family a better citizenship, and to build up his State and his nation, to
extend his Fatherly love over his fellow men, who earnestly desires for all the nations of the world—"Peace on earth, good will towards men," and who gives all the glory to God Almighty! (Prolonged applause.)

CONCLUSION.

Now, in conclusion, gentlemen, I hope you will pardon me—and if you do not, it makes but little difference—for digressing, and possibly taking a course which has never before been taken by a Governor of any State, and, so far as I know, certainly not by a Governor of South Carolina. However, the calumny and abuse, the misrepresentations, and the wilful and foul slanders that have been heaped upon me and upon my family, make it necessary that I do this. Those who read it with an impartial eye will see that I did right. Those whom it will expose, as well as those who are too mean and contemptible to give justice to whom justice is due, will criticise, but for their criticism I care absolutely nothing. I want the people living now, who read this, and the fair historian of the future, to know what I am going to say.

My grandfather, Thomas Wainwright Blease, came to this country from Liverpool, England. He sprang from a good family of honest working men, as the records in the archives in Liverpool will show. He settled in the county of Edgefield, and was known as an honest, hard-working man. He and his brother, Horatio Blease, served our country in times of peace and in times of war, and their records speak for themselves. He married into the Coleman family, his wife, Bethany Coleman, being one of the charter members of the Edgefield Baptist Church—and she and her people stand in the memory of the citizenship of Edgefield today as God-loving and God-fearing Christian men and women, honest in their endeavors and faithful in their service.

My grandfather died when he was a young man. He left several boys and two girls. Those boys have written their names upon the rolls of the Confederate records of South Carolina. The husbands of both of those girls wrote their names upon these same records.

Basil Manly Blease, my uncle, was the first volunteer from Newberry county, when the call of the Confederacy was made, and he rose from the rank of private to the rank of a captain, and was shot to pieces at Cold Harbor, in the front rank of his company. (See O'Neall and Chapman's Annals of Newberry, under
head, "The First Volunteer from Newberry." See also article in same book, headed, "Henry H. Blease.")

My father left Edgefield when he was a young man, and settled five miles from Newberry Courthouse, on a farm. He afterwards moved to Newberry Courthouse and opened a hotel and livery stable. While so engaged he fed many and many a man and his stock without charging him a cent, and the sons of some of those whom he did charge, and never paid him a cent, are today among my bitterest political enemies—these sons of fathers who died leaving their open accounts and notes for food for themselves and their families and stock.

He was an honest man; he paid his honest debts; he lived an honest life; and today I thank God that those who knew him all say that Henry H. Blease was a good man, and that possibly he did more for charity than any other man who has lived in his county, as will be vouched for by all the people who knew him, unless it be some dirty, contemptible liar who happened to be his enemy because Henry H. Blease would not assist him in doing some dirty work, politically or otherwise.

My father married Miss Mary A. Livingston, the daughter of an Edgefield county farmer, whose family stood high as honest, hard-working people. Her four brothers went into the Confederate Army and fought for the South, one of them being shot to death on the field of battle. She died when I was a baby, not quite six years of age. Both my father and mother were members of the Methodist Church, and their home at Newberry was known as the "Methodist preachers' home" when the preachers were in Newberry. The only regret of my whole life is that my parents had passed away and could not visit me in the Executive Mansion, as do Mrs. Blease's father and mother.

My father was often urged to enter the political arena, and always declined to do so, absolutely refusing to accept any political office. When the political faction to which he belonged did elect all the officers in Newberry county, he was urged to enter the race for the State Senate, but he declined to allow his name to be used, saying to his friends: "You haven't any office which I would accept. If you wish to do something for me, elect my boy to the Legislature." The election of the present Governor to the House of Representatives when he was only twenty-one years of age, shows that his father's friends granted the request made of
them then, and the political success of the present Governor shows that the request was granted thereafter.

**MY FATHER'S BOYS.**

My father left four boys. One of them, when he was quite a young man, moved to Saluda county; was elected County Superintendent of Education, then to the House of Representatives, and then to the State Senate. Another was Magistrate in the Town of Newberry and County Chairman of the Democracy of Newberry county. He married a young lady in Virginia, and moved to Staunton, where, I am proud to say, he has made a good name for himself, and stands high in his State and community. As yet, he has spurned all efforts to get him to become a candidate for any public office. Another, the baby, is today the youngest Sheriff in South Carolina—the Sheriff of his home county, Newberry. The other son is the present Governor of South Carolina.

I herewith insert a sketch written by a friend of mine, which speaks for itself, and which is absolutely true, as the records in the fraternal orders to which I belong, in the Mayor's office of the city of Newberry, the records of the various county positions which I have held, and the records of the House of Representatives, the State Senate, and the Governor's office of this State, will all show:

"Governor Coleman Livingston Blea was born a little more than forty-six years ago on his father's farm, known as the Blea, or Mendenhall place, four miles west of Newberry Court House. His father moved to Columbia and lived there one year, winding up the business affairs of the firm of Blea and Due, and then moved back to the town of Newberry, where he ran a hotel and livery stable and merchandise business. The son, Coleman Livingston, worked in the hotel and livery stable. When fourteen years of age he was awarded a silver cup at the Newberry County Fair for being the best boy rider at the fair. He attended Newberry College, finishing the Junior class. In his Junior year, the contest for the gold oratorical medal in which he participated was decided in favor of another by the committee by a majority of one, and the citizens of Newberry were so indignant over the result that they made up money by public subscription and presented a beautiful gold watch chain, which he now wears, to Mr. Blea. This is the only instance recalled in the history of the colleges of this State where an audience has registered its protest..."
in this manner against the decision of a committee of judges in a college contest.

"Governor Blease's father, Mr. Henry Horatio Blease, served the city of Newberry as Magistrate for several years, and it may have been this judicial disposition of his father which gave the present Governor his inclination for the law, in which he and two of his brothers have been successful.

"In 1888, Mr. Blease was a candidate for the House of Representatives from Newberry county, and received a majority of the votes cast, but three others having received a majority, he did not become the nominee of the party. He then attended Georgetown University, from which institution he graduated in law, and was immediately, upon examination, admitted to practice law, before the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. In June, 1889, he returned to his home in Newberry, and, upon motion before the Supreme Court of South Carolina, was admitted to the practice of law in the Courts of this State, becoming a member of the firm of Blease & Blease, which firm continued until his elder brother married and moved to Staunton, Va.

"In February, 1890, he was married to Miss Lillie B. Summers, and for a few years after his marriage he resided in the town of Helena, near Newberry. In order to improve lawless conditions there, he was instrumental in having the town incorporated, and served as its first intendant, which position he held until his election to the Legislature vacated the position.

"In 1890 he was elected to the House of Representatives by a very flattering vote. When Representative Buchanan resigned to become Private Secretary to Senator Irby, he was elected by the committee as chairman of the Committee on Privileges and Elections of the House, and as such served as member of the State Board of Canvassers for several sessions. He was several times chosen Speaker pro tem. of the House. He was re-elected to the House in 1892, at the head of the ticket, receiving the largest vote ever received by any candidate from Newberry up to that time.

"He took high rank as a parliamentarian from the beginning of his legislative career, and his ability in this line was recognized during his service in both branches of the General Assembly, by his selection as Speaker pro tem. of the House and President pro tem. of the Senate."
"In 1898, during the Spanish American War, he was military secretary to Governor Ellerbe. He was returned to the House that year, when he was again elected at the head of the ticket, and he served as chairman of the Committee on Military, and was ex officio a member of the Board of Visitors of the Military Academy of South Carolina.

"In 1900 and in 1902 he was defeated as a candidate for Lieutenant Governor. In 1904 he was elected to the State Senate from the county of Newberry, by a large majority. During his service in the Senate he was considered by all, both friends and opponents, as the leader of that body, and his ability as a parliamentarian was recognized by his associates in his election as President pro tem. The parliamentary fights which he led there will long be remembered by those conversant with the political history of this State.

"In 1906 he was a candidate for Governor, and ran third among many candidates. In 1908 he opposed Governor Ansel for re-election, and thousands of people in this State believed then and believe now that he would have defeated Governor Ansel had it not been for the fearful August floods of that year, which greatly reduced the vote. In 1910 he was elected Governor, making the second race with the prohibition leader, Hon. C. C. Featherstone. In 1912, in one of the hardest-fought political battles in the history of any State in the Union, and in the face of one of the bitterest fights ever waged against any man in politics, he defeated former Chief Justice Jones for Governor, and received an indorsement of his administration by being re-elected.

"Governor Blease has a record of life-long devotion to the Democratic party, and of service to the party. He has served as chairman of the city Democracy of Newberry, as chairman of the County Democratic Executive Committee, and was for eighteen years a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee. Since he first entered politics, except one time when he declined to allow his name to be used as a candidate, he has represented Newberry county in every State Democratic Convention. He was presidential elector on the Bryan ticket, both in 1896 and in 1900.

"One of the most interesting incidents in Governor Blease's political career was his election as mayor of the city of Newberry. After his defeat by Governor Ansel in 1908, Mr. Blease having been severely attacked in that race by newspapers, ministers, and
others, he went back to Newberry and announced his candidacy for mayor in order to show the people of the State how he stood at home. He was elected mayor over the incumbent, who was regarded as a very strong local politician. In former years Mr. Blease had served as city attorney of Newberry.

"In addition to the political offices which he has held, Governor Blease has taken high rank in the secret orders of this State. He has served as Grand Master of the Odd Fellows, having the honor of presiding as Grand Master at the second Grand Lodge meeting which he ever attended. At that meeting he was chosen Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of the United States, in which capacity he served for two years, declining re-election. He is still a member of the Odd Fellows, and has done more, probably, than any other man in the Order to put the Odd Fellows' Orphan Home on a solid foundation.

"He has served as Great Sachem of the Improved Order of Red Men, and is now serving his fifth term as Great Representative to the Great Council of the United States. He was started through the Great Council chairs at the first Great Council meeting which he attended.

"He is a member of the Elks, a Past Chancellor Commander of the Knights of Pythias, and a member of the Woodmen of the World.

"Governor and Mrs. Blease are both members of the Methodist Church.

Governor Blease's record as Governor is too well known to need repetition here. During his encumbency he has fearlessly stood for the rights of the people, consistently carrying out his oft-repeated and well-known policies. The bitter fights which have been made upon him, and his victories in the face of odds against which no other man in this State has ever had to contend; his frankness in the statement of his positions; the parole system which he has inaugurated in this State, and his vital force which has been evidenced in every official act, have made him a large national figure.

"The wife of the present Governor, who was before her marriage, Miss Lillie Summers, of Anderson county, is the daughter of a Confederate soldier. Her grandfather was killed in the Mexican War, and his name appears on the Palmetto monument which adorns the State House grounds. Her great-grandfather was a
colonel in the Revolutionary Army, by virtue of which she is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution."

From this brief sketch you will see, gentlemen, that this son to whom attention was last called, who is now the Governor of the State, whom some saw fit in the last campaign to designate as "the stable boy," was born without a silver spoon in his mouth. Surely those who are born with silver spoons in their mouths deserve no credit for having silver upon their lips. But this boy, by hard struggles, by hard fighting, and by devotion to his friends, and as the result of the gratitude of his friends, has gradually advanced himself, step by step, until he became the fourteenth Governor of South Carolina since she redeemed herself from Republicanism. Four of these Governors were made chief executives by promotion, and he is the fifth who has served two full terms. His elections were no accidents. They were fought for and won after strenuous battles. Some were unkind enough to say that his election in 1910 was an accident, but it is hardly probable that this charge will be made against him as to the election of 1912.

Now, gentlemen, as I said in the beginning, I hope you will excuse this sketch, but I wanted to let the people know something of me and my people—who they were and who we are—in order that the people themselves might judge in the face of misrepresentations by newspaper liars and false historians.

I am proud of my record—proud that I have represented my town and my county and my State as I have. I have never done one single act that I am ashamed of. I have not done one single act, since I have been a public servant, that I would change, if it were to do over. The record is made. It stands for itself. I am proud of it, and I care nothing for what others may say or think. All that I ask is that when they speak or when they write, it be the truth. If it create a favorable impression, all well and good. If it create an unfavorable impression, I and I alone am responsible. I have never bowed my knee to any man or set of men. I answer in this world for my individual life, to none. I answer for my public acts to my people. For all of my acts I answer to my God.

I have attained the highest ambition of my life. My life's work, so far as my personal interest is concerned, has been completed. If my people want my service in the future I will give it, but I shall ask them for nothing more.
I have no fears of death. I believe that there is a God. I believe that there is a heaven. I have the satisfaction of believing that I have served my God and my country as I would have had this service rendered by others. The Supreme Ruler is a just and merciful God, and I believe that as I have shown mercy unto others, he will show it unto me. I hope that my days may be many upon this earth, but when the summons shall come I shall go to face Him, believing in the power of His Son, Jesus Christ, and believing that I shall be rewarded according to the good which I have accomplished. I pray that this reward may be an everlasting home with Him, to enjoy peace and happiness throughout eternity, and I pray Him that you may so live that you will receive a similar reward.

Very respectfully,

COLE. L. BLEASE,
Governor.