

## NOTES ON GEORGIA POLITICS.

THE L. & N. Railroad is playing the same subtle game it played in the conquest of Kentucky and Tennessee, in which campaigns Governor Goebel and Senator Carmack were foully assassinated by L. & N. partisans.

The President of the L. & N. admits that his books show the expenditure of millions, to create or control public opinion in those conquered States; but he refuses to tell the U. S. Government who got the money.

In this refusal, the daily papers, and the public men who got the money, are strongly in favor of silence on the part of President Milton Smith.

The L. & N. Railroad is determined to shark our State Road, and if you will exercise your memory a little, you will be able to see certain men in their true light.

When Gov. Harris opened his campaign for re-election, did he say that he was opposed to the sale of the State Road?

*He did not!* On the contrary, he meandered around for weeks, telling the people that there was much to be said on both sides. He kept this non-committal line during the whole time that the Macon Telegraph, Bill Burwell, and other Harris supporters were strongly advocating the sale to the L. & N.

*Not until Dorsey entered the race,* declaring against either selling, or paralleling, did Harris cease his ambiguous talk.

The Harris supporters right now are working to change public sentiment on that subject. Every few days, The Telegraph prints long articles which are presumably paid for by the L. & N.

Are any of the Dorsey supporters doing this?

*Not one!* Hamp McWhorter, Clayt. Robson, and Bosh Felder are the king-bee lobbyists of Georgia, with railroad reputations reaching back for many years.

Neither Felder, Robson, nor McWhorter would take trouble to deny their relations to the great interlocked corporations which dictate so much of our legislation, and control so many of our elections.

Now, who are those three King-bee lobbyists and wire-pullers supporting in this campaign?

*Not Dorsey!* A blind man can see, that Harris and Pottle are practically hunting in couples, McWhorter being for Harris first, and Pottle second; while Robson is for Pottle first, and Harris second.

*Both are opposed to Dorsey!* At the last of a Legislature, when so many slick tricks by old hands can be worked on the members from the country, who was it that tried to slip in an amendment giving a Committee the right to privately sell the most valuable asset owned by the State?

*It was Bill Burwell.* Is Burwell for Dorsey? "Not so that you could notice it."

It is a cheeky thing for the Harris-Pottle combination to publish a statement that Dorsey belongs to the L. & N. Railroad, because Dorsey formerly belonged to a firm of lawyers which did a corporation practice.

Let's see about Col. Nat.:

Several years ago the Macon and Northern Railroad went to the bad, and Col. Nat., who was Attorney for the bondholders, was appointed Receiver. The Central of Georgia wanted the Macon & Northern, as badly—almost—as the L. & N. now wants the W. & A. But the Seaboard also coveted the bankrupt line of which Col. Nat. had been made legal boss

Through a deal made with Col. Nat. and his bondholding clients, the Central R. R. got the Macon & Northern—the line which runs from Macon to Athens.

A responsible lawyer of Col. Nat's hometown informs me that the Central R. R. was so pleased with his conduct as Receiver, that it made a contract with him, giving him, for life, the Attorneyship for the Macon & Northern branch, and that every summer he was to have a private Pullman car, free, to convey him and his family to their summer home in East Tennessee.

I know that he was using a private Pullman, free of charge, because I came across that fact during a controversy with the late Charles Pendleton, then Editor of The Telegraph.

Col. Harris was lawyer for the railroads and Secretary of The Telegraph Company, at the same time, and I commented upon this connection which the paper had with the corporations, through Nat. Harris.

No denial was made by either Harris or Pendleton.

When the old man entered the race for governor, giving out the idea that he only wanted one term, and tendering to Hamp McWhorter his resignation as R. R. lawyer, I thought it fair to assume that his former relations with corporations would not unduly influence him as Chief Executive. Consequently I supported him freely, and earnestly, defending him on the very point of his former employment by railroads.

If it be true, as stated, that his son is now the railroad lawyer in Macon, the fact would warrant the supposition that Hamp McWhorter is holding the Colonel's old place open for him; and that Nathaniel will again be Hamp's appointee, after next June.

There's nothing like throwing an anchor to windward, you know. The Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, and the Northern corporations entrenched there, will take care of Col. Nat.

Asa Candler is director in a big railroad which belongs to the L. & N.

Asa is also director of the Democratic State machinery, through his Coca-Cola advertising agent, St. Elmo Massengale.

Asa is likewise Mayor of Atlanta, wherein the L. & N. have Union Depot and other patriotic designs.

Asa holds a mortgage of four million dollars on every taxable thing in Georgia, including your watch, your shot-gun, and your wife's wash-pot.

This mortgage does not cover Coca-Cola, because Coca-Cola belongs to Asa, and is not a taxable thing.

Murphy Candler is a member of the W. & A. Commission which will come into contact with the L. & N. sharks.

Murphy is also Railroad Commissioner, and is running again.

So far as the Candler's are concerned, here is what you might call a truly rural situation.

*Is Asa Candler supporting Dorsey?*  
*Is St. Elmo Massengale for Dorsey?*

As Guy Clopton says, in the Gainesville Herald, the Atlanta papers and capitalists and politicians that are fighting Dorsey hardest, are the Buy-a-Bale swindlers, the men who wanted to dictate to the farmer how many acres he should plant in cotton, the politicians who wanted to put a direct Federal tax on cotton, and who antagonized the County-unit plan which is the salvation of country counties.

Gov. Harris owed his election to County-unit advocates, and to the County-unit plan;

but, just as he went over to the enemy on everything else, he deserted us on that also, and vetoed the Neill bill.

Mrs. Nelms requests me to publish the following letter from herself to Mr. Pottle:

Atlanta, Ga., August 21, 1916.

Mr. Joseph E. Pottle,

Dear Sir: You have been quoted repeatedly in various newspapers as having referred in your political speeches to me and my family and my misfortunes, and as having attempted to arouse sympathy for me with that recitation in order to excite prejudice against Mr. Hugh M. Dorsey, candidate for governor.

You are quoted as blaming Mr. Dorsey for having accepted employment by me; as representing that he took a mortgage on my home to insure his fee; as representing him to be a man who would take a "widow's mite" for work he ought to have done without charge or ought not to have done at all—which, I am unable to determine from reports of your speeches.

The facts of this matter are, that I employed Mr. Dorsey of my own volition to represent the sheriff of Bexar County, Texas, before the Supreme Court at Washington in resisting an appeal by Mr. and Mrs. Victor E. Innes on their petition for habeas corpus. The governor of Texas had declined or neglected to see that the sheriff of Bexar County was so represented. It therefore became necessary for me, the mother of the two girls who were murdered and the one most at interest, to see that this representation was made.

I had the right to employ Mr. Dorsey for this private and personal service, and he had the right to accept that employment. The amount of the fee I agreed to pay him for this work is a matter of private contract between him and myself.

I have no objection to his making it known, but I see no reason why I should inform you of it. Further, the method of payment of that fee also was a matter of private contract between us, with which I think you are not concerned. If the newspapers have correctly quoted you as saying that I mortgaged my home to insure its payment to Mr. Dorsey, you either are misinformed or negligent of the truth.

With due reference to you and whatever you may consider the necessities of your efforts against Mr. Dorsey's integrity and fitness for the office of governor, permit me to say that in my opinion you have violated good taste and have shown utter disregard of my sensibilities by bringing my name and my great griefs into your selfish political discourses. This is to ask that you show me hereafter the courtesy of refraining from any direct or indirect mention of me in your public speeches.

Let me add, in order that you may know my mental attitude toward you, that my former indifference toward your campaign for governor has been converted into a positive dislike by your very insincere and totally inexcusable efforts to arouse prejudice against Mr. Dorsey by appealing for sympathy for me.

Yours very truly,

MRS. JNO. W. NELMS.

Those who remember how the attorneys of Leo Frank urged the U. S. Supreme Court to hand down its decision, without waiting the customary length of time, will also remember how the hearing before the Prison Commission was "speeded up," and given precedence of other cases of long standing.

My recollection is, that the arguments before the Commission were suddenly cut short, in order that the case might go at once to Governor Slaton.

In all of the voluminous literature of that hot period, last year, I do not remember any complaint being made on account of the case being brought to Slaton; but, on the contrary, much comment was provoked by the evident haste of Frank's lawyers to get it before him.

I know of one member of the Atlanta bar who urged Slaton to let the case go to his successor, because of Slaton's legal partnership with Frank's lawyers.

Furthermore, I have been told, within the last few days, of a Superior Court Judge, related to Slaton, who strongly protested against his taking jurisdiction in a case where he was also attorney for the defendant.

# The Jeffersonian

Issued Every Thursday.

Office of Publication: THOMSON, GA.

Entered as second-class matter, Dec. 8, 1910,  
at the post office at Thomson, Georgia,  
under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Price . . . . . \$1.00 Per Year.

Advertising Rates Furnished on Application.

**Aug. 16** If the above date appears on the label on your paper it means that your subscription expires this month. Subscriptions are discontinued promptly on date of expiration. RENEW NOW.

THOMSON, GA., AUGUST 31, 1916.

Had Slaton *desired* to disqualify himself, he had the best ground in the world. All he need to have said was, that his firm had received fees from the defendant, and that *the law* gave him a share of the money.

Everybody would have approved his course, had he, *on that legal ground*, respited Frank—say for 60 days—just as he is said to have respited a negro convicted of murder.

What will be your amazement, therefore, when you learn that Slaton now *blames Dorsey* for letting the Frank case get to him?

In a letter written in May of this year, Slaton uses this astounding language:

"Dorsey had it in his power to place this case before Governor Harris."

Suppose we forget that Frank's lawyers did the forcing, both as to the handing down of the decision and the precedence given by the Prison Commission, how can we forget that the Governor had the best possible reason for excusing himself? How can anyone doubt that the people would have *praised him*, had he frankly said—

"The condemned man is the client of my law-firm, and therefore it would be a gross impropriety (if not a violation of law) for me to *retry the case*, and upset the decisions of the jury and all the judges."

In this remarkably stupid letter, John M. Slaton further says:

"He (Dorsey) forced the case before me without making any point (of disqualification) and if I had postponed the case for Governor Harris, he knew that I would be justly attacked for cowardice.

His conduct on the whole was so perfidious and false that I have no respect for him, and I cannot see how the people of Georgia can elect such a pigmy.

"I am firmly convinced that Dorsey has practically no chance."

Does your mind go back to last Summer, when the North and West greeted John M. Slaton as the Hero, the one Great Man of Georgia, the man who had redeemed his State, the man whose Sublime Courage was the toast of banquets, and the text of sermons?

Did Slaton *then* complain that the false and perfidious Dorsey had "forced" all those honors upon him?

Did he, in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, or San Francisco, tell his jubilant Jerusalemites, Hearstites, and South-haters that all the glory belonged to the perfidious Dorsey?

Did Slaton *disclaim* the ovations, the puffs the receptions?

Did he ask them to send for Dorsey, the man who could have forced those glories upon Harris, but who forced them upon Slaton?

My! my! what a change!

Last August, it was Slaton who was Cock-robin, Big Chief, Lion-tamer, Strong Man

from Borneo, Slaughterer of wild animals, Suppressor of Mob-law.

Last August, it was Slaton who rode in the Northern chariot of triumph, his path strewn with flowers, his head crowned with laurel, his smile blossoming on the front page of the metropolitan dailies.

Hearst blew bugles in his great chain of papers: Ochs, and Abell, and Pulitzer, and Ajonidab, and Ahab—they blew bugles.

But Slaton now says it was all a mistake. *He* didn't go to do it. *He* preferred to get out of it. The false and perfidious Dorsey forced him to become a hero, in spite of himself; and now he hates Dorsey, calls him a pigmy, and doesn't see how the people can elect such a man, although Dorsey is the man who forced John Slaton to become a hero.

Cousin Joe Pottle is still asking questions, but not answering any.

When you *can't* answer, it is just as well not to try.

There was Broadus, shot in the back in Jasper County, and Benton on trial for the murder. Cousin Joe was Solicitor-General, and his conduct of the case excited surprise and suspicion. Benton was not convicted, as Leo Frank was.

Benton had rich relatives, just as Leo Frank had.

L. O. Benton, the brother of the accused, owns a string of banks, just as some of Frank's backers owned banks.

If Hugh Dorsey had acted in the Frank case with the same *evident leaning to the defendant*, Frank would have got off, just as Broadus did.

Governor Harris, at Fort Gaines, more than hinted that the L. & N. Railroad had bought Dorsey, and that Dorsey favored the County-unit plan *because* the L. & N. wanted it.

Dorsey will never again have such a chance to sell out as he had in the long, hard fight to convict the Jew Criminal, to save whose life more money was poured into Georgia—from Maine to California—than the L. & N. Railroad will ever pay for any one man.

As to the County-unit plan, The Jeffersonian has persistently fought for it, explained it, defended it, and shown how it saves the State from the control of the big cities where the Corporations exert the greatest power over the local vote.

With money, with whiskey, with the job-lash, with the influence of business connections, the Corporations have immensely more strength in Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, and Savannah, than they have in the country counties, where the job-lash and the interlocked business interests have no influence at all.

Every man of good common sense can see this, if he wants to. Even Nat Harris saw it, when his only hope of winning, *two years ago* was the County-unit plan. If he now sees things differently, it must be on account of his recent expectations of getting the benefit, in the big cities, of money, whiskey, the job-lash, and the interlocked business interests.

My educational campaign for the *constitutional* division of political power, began in 1907 when the State Executive Committee suddenly broke loose from the *Constitutional* county-unit, plan, and adopted the revolutionary popular vote plan which allows Atlanta to submerge about 30 country counties.

I was in Florida at the time, not in Hugh Dorsey's office, and lost no time in opening the campaign for the country counties. Did not consult the L. & N. Railroad, nor Hamp McWhorter, nor Judge Reagan, nor Joe Pottle, nor Clayt. Robson, nor yet Col. Nat Harris.

The Atlanta Constitution was the only

daily paper that helped me in the fight; and, of course, the L. & N. Railroad may have given Clark Howell a million or so. If so, it was mean in him not to divide with me.

Yes, Sir! It was 9 years ago, that the Corporation interests of the big cities first sprung their nefarious scheme to violate the principles of the Constitution of 1877 by forming a political convention on exactly the opposite principle to that which forms the State legislature.

If Atlanta is entitled to 40 times more power than a small county, in naming the governor and all the other important state-officers, why isn't Atlanta equally entitled to 40 times more members of the House of Representatives than McDuffie or Lincoln or Grady, or Bacon, or Jenkins?

Col. Nat couldn't answer, to save his life.

Pottle never assails Harris, and Harris never raps Cousin Joe. Yet, if Dorsey had accepted a Populist nomination for Congress, and had gone to campaigning with "the arch-enemy of Democracy," I feel it in my bones that old Nat would have jabbed him about it.

It was in 1892, and General James B. Weaver was candidate for President on the Peoples' Party ticket and William J. Bryan was supporting him.

So was Cousin Joe. With me and Joe and Bryan all in the same boat together, we apples surely did float. But lo, and behold! Cousin Joe left the breakfast-table, one fine morning, wearing our Populist nomination; and when he sat down to supper, he was a moss-back Democrat. It almost killed father, because Joe had been such a brilliant, eloquent and handsome young leader at our Populist conventions.

Tell the boys what it was you ate between breakfast and supper, Joseph. This isn't the case of Potiphar's wife, you know: we Pops did not come upon you suddenly and catch hold of your raiment where it was scant.

Somebody else did that.

Senator Dobbs of Cobb County is running for the place of Comptroller-General; and the first question to settle is, whether it's sacrilegious for him to do so.

If it's no sin for the Senator to run against an incumbent who has held the office ever since Wheeler's Cavalry passed through, the Senator from Cobb may make a good showing.

Brother Dobbs helped us mightily in getting the Veazey bill up, and through. Lots of bills could go through, if somebody would help you get them up.

Many a man who will vote "Aye", if he has to vote at all, will beseech the Committee to hold a bill in its own custody, and thus prevent a vote.

That's what saved the Tax Inequality law, *this time*.

The Jeffersonian was in error about James A. Boykin. He was not a delegate to the Macon Convention, as I was informed. At the request of friends in Lincoln, I cheerfully make the correction.

All the same, however, I warn Dorsey's friends, in all counties carried by him, of the danger of naming delegates who are partisans of Hardwick, Slaton, and Smith. Those men are for *anybody* to beat Dorsey.

A Roman Catholic is running for one of the three new judgeships of the Court of Appeals. This is Mr. John M. Graham, who, so far as I know, has never served the State in any judicial capacity. He has merely been clerk to the Supreme Court. It is unusual for clerks to demand a place on the Supreme Bench, without some preparatory experience.

*It is a bad time to be electing Roman Catholics to the highest offices.*