

FERGUSON SEES DEAL OF MOODY AND ROAD FIRM

Settlement Represented Loss
of \$900,000 to State, Is
Claim Made at Cleburne.

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CLEBURNE, June 10. — Dan Moody was dared, "and I dare him again, double dare him" to produce before the people of Texas the "contract made between him and the American Road Company," after more than \$400,000 of that company's money was returned to Texas last Autumn, by James E. Ferguson in a speech he made today in behalf of wife's candidacy for Governor, before a crowd of more than 2,000 persons here.

"What, oh, what, tell us, Dan, kind of a contract did you make with the American Road Company after they brought that money back into Texas?" Ferguson demanded to know. "Representatives of the Governor went to the American Exchange Bank at Dallas, where this money was deposited, and asked them to produce the contract. They refused to do so. The only thing that they would say was that they were holding that money subject to the order of Dan Moody or the American Road Company. I challenge Dan Moody to tell of the contract he made with this bunch. If you do not produce this contract, and tell the people of Texas the truth about it, then you are a pusillanimous coward."

Gave Company \$900,000.

Ferguson's interpretation of "this road squabble" was the outstanding feature of his speech at Cleburne, and is the only important particular in which he deviated from the speeches he has been making since he formally opened his campaign at Sulphur Springs May 22. He declared that Moody had permitted the American Road Company to leave the State with "\$900,000 worth of horses from the State's Treasury" and that his settlement with them had cost, and not made, the State money.

"Dan Moody says that the American Road Company was a grafting concern and that the contract was made in corruption and let in fraud," Ferguson declared. "If that is so then why did he pay them anything?" If what he said is the truth then he, as a public official, seeking to protect the interests of the people of Texas ought not to have allowed them to get away with 9 cents, nor \$9,000, and certainly not \$900,000."

Offered Second.

Ferguson said the contract was originally made between the Highway Commission and Heyser & Broadnax, "two men whom Moody proved in open court to be worth \$1,500,000." Moody proved, further, that these men construed the contract to call for a second course, Ferguson said, and he added that the officials of the American Road Company had written a letter, which had been made public, to the effect that the concern was ready and willing to put on a second course. The commission permitted the two contractors to transfer the actual prosecution of the work to the American Road Company, but the assignment "expressly provided that the men would not be released from personal responsibility."

The American Road Company had laid the first course, and had begun the "second course, having laid about 35 miles of it, when lo, and behold, here comes a suit by the Attorney General."

He alleged in the petition that they had completed the work and that 30 cents a square yard was not a fair price.

Denied Day in Court.

When the Governor heard of the allegations of fraud in the petition, Ferguson said, she called in the highway commissioners and asked them about the truth or falsity of the charge. They denied it, and maintained that for the two-course treatment, which, he said, the contract called for, 30 cents a square yard was a fair price. They asked her, he said, that they be permitted to go into court, in her name, and that they would prove that the contract was a good one, and reputable engineers would be placed on the witness stand to testify that 30 cents was a fair price to pay for a two-course treatment of asphalt.

"That was a reasonable request," Ferguson said, "and the Governor employed two lawyers. They entered pleadings denying the unjust and unfair charges made by Moody. They wanted to present testimony showing the prices are fair. As a reasonable and fair and honest man, Moody should have welcomed them, and given them an opportunity to show the real facts in the case. Instead, he opposed their efforts. He got behind a technicality. The Judge, when asked by one of the lawyers, how did he know that Moody and the attorneys of the American Road Company, as quick as the Highway Commission was denied the right to represent the State and hold the company to the contract, would not make an agreement, said he could not as a judge presume that he could not happen."

Made Agreement?

"We were denied the right to be heard, and were not given any more consideration than a nigger crap-shooter, and sure enough in 48 hours, in comes Dan Moody, arm in arm with the attorneys of the American Road Company, and agrees to release them from the obligation which they had by letter a few days previously said that they were compelled to carry out, and then had the State pay them at the rate of 16.7 cents per square yard for the one-course treatment of asphalt."

Ferguson then charged that Moody told T. H. McGregor of Austin a few weeks ago that the attorney of the American Road Company was paid \$100,000, and he said further that this attorney is now one of the managers of Moody's campaign in Travis County.

"And he will not deny that these are facts," Ferguson said, after he had asked "what did they pay \$100,000 for?"

Hired Moody's Friend.

"You can hire the best lawyer in Texas in any case for \$10,000," he went on. "What did the American Road Company pay this lawyer \$100,000 for? Was it for his ability to practice law or was it for his influence with Dan Moody, his close personal friend?"

See record made by the adminis-

SOCIETY

Artist in Piano



Miss Vivian Melton, daughter of M Street, who appeared in piano recital teacher, Guy R. Pitner, on South Jen

Couple Wedded 26 Years Feted

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Baker entertained with a dinner party Monday evening at the Fort Worth Club in celebration of their twenty-sixth wedding anniversary.

A large mound of sweetpeas in pastel shades centered the table and the same colors in wax tapers in silver holders, completed a most effective setting.

Covers were laid for Messrs. and Meses, Edward Baker, Charles Barnett, Dallas; Mr. Robert Baker and Mrs. C. F. Bales.

BRIDGE PARTY GIVEN BY MRS. WALLENBERG

Mrs. H. C. Wallenberg of West Leuda Street entertained with an afternoon of bridge last week at her home.

The attractive rooms were made more so by baskets and vases of garden flowers.

In the game, Mrs. M. A. Stainer and Miss Ludie Emerson made high scores and the cut went to Mrs. James Kyle Barnes.

Others attending were Meses, J. M. Givens, J. B. Hayden, Pearl Calhoun Davis, C. F. Gilchrist, Leonard Withington, Ellis Doughty, C. C. Gumm, H. D. Guelick, Jesse Brown, Alfred Peacock, Mable Neely, Charles Alton, G. F. Nemitz, Walter Dobbs, John Eaton, Percy Garrett, Fred Martin, C. Armstrong, John Eriksen, Robert Wilson, J. R. McLaughlin, T. B. George, H. H. Sonés, A. E. Dennison, Robert Pipkin of Mexia and Misses Bernice Nebblet and Cleo Greenwood.

tration of Governor Ferguson was briefly reviewed by the ex-Governor who made a strong plea for a second term for his wife. He said the penitentiary system has been put on a cash basis, although at the present time because of the necessity of taking care of current obligations while the crop is being made, it shows a debit. Appropriations have been reduced \$10,000,000.

Says Law for Poor.

When he had concluded his defense of the pardon policy, he said that "the enforcement of the liquor law has gotten to where it is only the poor who have to pay the penalty."

A few months ago, he recalled, Governor Ferguson offered to pay a reward of \$5,000 for the arrest and conviction of anyone who was worth more than \$5,000 on a liquor charge. Since then there have been more than 400 convictions, and the reward has not been earned.

"..... Amon G. Carter got drunk before 20,000 people at the A. & M. football game, and he makes the boast that he has got more whisky than anybody in Fort Worth. They have not been arrested."

The Cleburne Santa Fe band played. A procession was formed at the hotel, headed by the band, and Ferguson was applauded as he went through the streets. Immediately preceding the speaking he was visited by scores of Johnson County men, and delegations from out of the county. Judge O. O. Chrieman presided, and in starting the meeting he was liberally applauded when he declared the people owed Mrs. Ferguson a second term. Senator Pierce B. Ward, praising both the administration of Mrs. Ferguson, and the character and ability of James E. Ferguson, introduced the speaker. Just before he began to speak he was presented with a bouquet of flowers by little Miss Viola Thomas.

(Editor's Note—Mr. Ferguson has made libelous statements concerning other public men in Texas, which the libel laws will not permit us to publish. However, Mr. Carter waives this feature, realizing that the public has a sense of humor. Mr. Ferguson thinks any one who would holler "hurrah! for Dan Moody" is either drunk or crazy. So far he has not accused Mr. Carter of being crazy, so he assumes he must have been drunk. A cash discount can be taken on most of Mr. Ferguson's statements. On July 24 when the final votes are cast and Mr. Ferguson is relegated to the political discard, Texas can then hold its head up and look the world in the face without shame, embarrassment or apology. Mr. Ferguson will then wake up to the fact that the public is far more intelligent than he now gives it credit for being. "Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad." Mr. Ferguson now seems to be on his way.)

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