

MARCH · 1894

Rucker persuaded Atlanta businessmen and political leaders to relax the segregation laws for the occasion. Though somewhat more militant than BTW, Rucker was loyal to the Tuskegean. His removal from office in 1910 was not the result of any failure to perform well the duties of his office, but was part of a campaign of President Taft to remove blacks from federal offices in the South.

⁴ Clark Howell (1863-1936), eldest son of Evan Park Howell, after graduating from the University of Georgia, joined his father's newspaper, the Atlanta *Constitution*, in 1884, then in its heyday under Henry W. Grady's managing editorship. Howell spent five years in the Georgia House of Representatives, the last year (1890-91) as speaker. He was a Democratic national committeeman from 1892 to 1924. He was president of the Georgia Senate from 1900 to 1906, resigning to run unsuccessfully for the governorship against Hoke Smith and Tom Watson. Considering himself an enlightened conservative, Howell generally opposed racial demagoguery, though with occasional lapses. In the twenties he endorsed Al Smith and opposed the Ku Klux Klan. His active campaigning for Franklin D. Roosevelt was rewarded by chairmanship of the National Aviation Commission. Howell was friendly to BTW, but at the time of the dinner at the White House and several other times when BTW sought to go beyond the Atlanta Compromise racial formula, Howell sharply criticized him.

To Julius B. Ramsey

[Tuskegee, Ala.] 3/5/1894

Major Ramsey: Sometime last week I asked Mr. Calloway to make an inspection of all the boys' dormitories, and report to me. The enclosed is his report, which you will see. By it you will see that many of the rooms need to be brought up, and I have asked him to assist you in this matter during the coming week. I realize that one of the great troubles is want of hay and straw, and I have told Mr. Calloway to order sufficient hay and straw for the beds. The general appearance of all the rooms on the place needs to be improved greatly. The work that you have before you can only be accomplished by hard effort, but I think you can do this work before the close of the term.

Please return Mr. Calloway's report as soon as you read it.

[Booker T. Washington]

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