

GONZALES MAY RECOVER

Condition of Lieut. Gov. Tillman's Victim, However, Is Critical.

Mr. Tillman in Statement Says That He Will Show Justification for the Shooting.

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N. Y. Times

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 10.—N. O. Gonzales, editor of The State, who was shot and seriously wounded by Lieut. Gov. James H. Tillman yesterday, is holding his own at 9 o'clock to-night. There has been no change in his condition and the crisis is yet to come. The best physicians in this part of the State are doing all they can to save his life, but hold out little hope of his recovery.

Mr. Gonzales is making a plucky fight for his life. He has a strong constitution, and his excellent habits and resolute will give him a chance to live, notwithstanding the serious nature of his wound.

His condition and the shooting are almost the only topics of conversation in South Carolina. Telegrams came throughout the day from all parts of the State and from many places beyond its borders expressing sympathy and asking for the latest news as to Mr. Gonzales's condition. All day long sympathetic crowds gathered around the bulletin board on Main Street and expressed hope for his recovery.

When the city schools assembled this morning and prayers were said, they included an appeal for the recovery of Mr. Gonzales. At the South Carolina College prayer was offered for the recovery of the stricken editor, and even in the Senate Chamber, where Lieut. Gov. Tillman had presided shortly before the shooting, the

Chaplain prayed that the wounded man's life would be saved.

While there is a great deal of feeling over the affair it can be stated with positiveness that there is no thought of violence against Lieut. Gov. Tillman on the part of Mr. Gonzales's friends. All reports of threats against Mr. Tillman's life in the event that the stricken editor should die are baseless. It is the wish of Mr. Gonzales and his closest friends that the matter should be left for the courts to settle.

Mr. Gonzales's wound was dressed shortly before 10 o'clock this morning, and Dr. Sherry announced that he was holding his own and doing as well as could be expected, but that the odds were greatly against his recovery. There was no change during the day. The physicians said this evening that they thought the first crisis would be reached during the night.

Lieut. Gov. Tillman passed a quiet day in the county jail, where he had a comfortable room on the second floor. He had some new furniture brought to his place of confinement and made himself comfortable. Some visitors called, but most of the day he spent in consultation with his lawyers, Congressman George W. Croft, ex-Judge C. W. Buchanan, and Coleman L. Blease.

Two of his counsel gave out a statement prepared by Mr. Tillman in response to a telegram. It was:

"I can only say that when the truth of the unfortunate affair is known, my friends, as well as the people, will know how thoroughly I was justified in acting as I did.

"The statements already published in the papers are untrue, and at the proper time this I will be prepared to show. Beyond this I do not care to make any further statement. JAMES H. TILLMAN."

It is understood here that Mr. Tillman's line of defense will be that he thought Mr. Gonzales had a weapon in his coat pocket and that he had his hands in his coat pocket. He is said to contend that he had every reason to believe that Mr. Gonzales was armed. Mr. Tillman will also say that when he aimed his pistol the second time at Mr. Gonzales that he did so expecting the editor to defend himself, and that he lowered his weapon because there was no response and not because of anything Mr. Gonzales said.

Mr. Tillman, it is understood, also will contend that he had not met Mr. Gonzales before. This is denied by Mr. Gonzales's friends, who say the two men were in the Senate chamber and State Capitol together.