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WINNSBORO, S. C.

Wednesday December 31. : : 1890

COL. LEE HAGOOD'S many friends have heard with great sorrow of his untimely death which occured on Thursday night in Sumter from the effects of an accidental discharge of his pistol a few days previous. Col. Hagood was in the prime of life, brave, handsome and honorable. He had for years been connected with the life insurance business and his genial, engaging manners made him friends wherever he went.

The recent elections have alarmed the Republicans, and they are groping in the dark recklessly to devise means for rallying their forces. They were so taken abash by the rebuke of the people last November, that they are working most vigorously to regain their foothold. The President is at the door of Congress trying to drive the force bill through and all of his party men are terribly anxious about the financial situation. Some of the leading Republicans, the more sensible ones, see in the passage of the force bill the downfall of the G. O. P.; others, less sensible, but more tyrannical and desperate, believe in passing the bill and rule by the machinery of the government. The efforts of the Republicans to allay the popular wrath against the McKinley bill by shifting the cause of high prices to other sources, is a little amusing. It will not beguile the people.

IT is said that when the "Reform" State officials reached Columbia and began to make inquiries about house rent, they discovered that existing salaries were as small as they could be without subjecting the incumbents to loss. The Senate and many members of the House concurred in this view, so the salaries remain unchanged for the present. A state officer has to maintain somewhat more elaborate style in Columbia than at home. The calls on his purse for subscriptions etc are more frequent, and house rent and necessary expenses are greater than in smaller places. Twenty-one hundred dollars will not go as far in maintaining a state official in Columbia as it will at home where he can wear old clothes, dodge book agents, refuse to contribute to every thing that comes along, and refrain from occasional "setting 'em up" to visiting statesmen from wayback. It is best policy to let the salaries alone and put in men big enough to fill them.

The Session Over.

The first session of the present Legislature is over, and taken it all in all it has not done a great deal to turn things upside down and inside out. The "movement" has been principally a movement into office, with vigorous and stout kicking on the part enthusiasts on both sides of the party. The principal leaders of what was thought a revolution, after having inspired a great fuss, hurrahs and dust-bitings during the campaign, have been safely landed into some office of dignity and emolument, and it is hoped that they are satisfied, now that their object has been attained.

With a few exceptions the Legislature's work has not been so bad; for a few men in the new party have been strong enough to do a little thinking of their own and have held the more zealous retrenchers in check. The session has been a disappointment to a great many who thought the new party could develope revelations most astounding and change the laws that two bales of cotton could be made where one was made before. It may be mentioned incidentally that "nothing rotten in Denmark" has been found by the new administration, and that those who thought that there was much room for reform are sorely disappointed. There has been considerable caucusing but it didn't amount to much except that it did put a few reformers into office. The first of the session was consumed in matters of politics, and then by orders of the administration the administration bills were carried through with a rush and without time for that careful, serious and calm consideration which they deserved. Legislation is important to the people and all important bills should be carefully debated. However, we hope that Speaker Irby's "record breaking" has not been a damaging breaking—though he does not care a snap what good men did in the past and seems a trifle reckless himself, especially so for a presiding officer.

From Nature's Storehouse

Comes all the component parts of S. S. S. There is no chemical nor anything which comes from the chemist's shop contained in it. S. S. S. is therefore a perfectly safe and harmless remedy, yet so powerful is it that it has never failed to cure Blood Poison. It always cures Scrofula, if taken before some vital part is so seriously impaired as to render a cure impossible. It relieves Mercurial Rheumatism, and cures all sorts of Eruptions, Pimples, Blotches, etc., by eliminating the poison from the blood. S. S. S. has cured thousands of cases of Skin Cancer, and many cases of Scirrhus Cancer. It is no experiment to take S. S. S. Treatise on Blood and Skin Diseases mailed free.
SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., Atlanta, Ga.

Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

Chief Justice Simpson.

Columbia's Christmas festivities suffered a rude shock on Friday morning by the announcement of the death of Chief Justice Simpson from heart failure. His health had been impaired for some time, but he had fulfilled all his public duties with undiminished vigor, and no fears were entertained by his friends of a near approach of death.

Justice William Dunlap Simpson was born in Laurens County Oct. 27, 1823. Receiving his education at the South Carolina College he entered the practice of law with great promise of success, and represented his district in the Legislature. At the summoning to arms he entered the army and had risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel when he was elected a member of the Confederate Congress. After the surrender Col. Simpson resumed his practice. He made the congressional race against A. S. Wallace in 1868, and won by several thousand votes, but was denied his seat because of his inability to take the test oath.

When the campaign of 1876 became a certainty, and the best men of the State were selected as candidates Col. Simpson was nominated for Lieutenant Governor. As will be remembered the contest was exceedingly close. Hampton ran somewhat ahead of his ticket, and was chosen by a plurality of something over eleven hundred. Col. Simpson came next, having a plurality of about one hundred and fifty, while the other State officers had still smaller margins. At the meeting of the Legislature the Senate stood 18 Republicans, 12 Democrats, and three Democrats, Gary, Todd and Maxwell whose seats were contested. While the House of Representatives split into two factions, the Senate remained solid, the Democrats refusing to secede in order not to impair their case by following the bolting tactics of the Mackey house. Consequently Lieutenant Governor Simpson was not permitted to preside over the Senate, and Gary, Todd and Maxwell were not sworn in. During this prolonged crisis which lasted from the fourth Tuesday in November to the Christmas holidays, Lieutenant Governor Simpson manifested the greatest firmness, declaring in private conversation his willingness to issue a proclamation convening the Senate and to issue writs to elect senators in place of all those, whether Republican or Democrat, who should refuse to obey the call and recognize him as presiding officer of the Senate. As the Democrats however were in an undoubted minority in this body, it was decided best not to make this *coup d'etat*.

In the following April Hayes removed the troops from the corridors of the State House, whereupon Chamberlain and Gleaves abandoned the contest. When Hampton called the extra Session, Lieutenant Governor Simpson was on hand. The Republican Senators called on him to take the oath of office. He refused to do so as he had previously qualified when he took the oath as Governor. When the Senators were discussing the point Lieutenant Governor Simpson rapped with his gavel, declared the Senate ready for business and ordered the oath to be administered to Messrs. Gary, Todd and Maxwell which was done in short order, while Republicans were protesting.

These three Senators had received certificates of election from the Supreme Court, and the president of the Senate was merely obeying the rule which allows the swearing in of members as a question of the highest privilege.

From this time matters moved on smoothly.

Without opposition Lieutenant Governor Simpson was re-elected; and shortly after, upon the election of Hampton to the Senate he became Governor of the State.

But the tastes of Governor Simpson led him to the law. This was the goal of his ambition. At the expiration of the term of Chief Justice Willard Governor Simpson became Chief Justice. How faithfully he served the State in this exalted position. Every one knows he was able, painstaking laborious and conscientious in the highest degree; and while he did not reach the great eminence attained by Harper and some others who were national in their reputation, he honorably maintained the high standard of the Supreme Bench of South Carolina

Justice Simpson was handsome in person, affable and engaging in manner, courteous and dignified on the bench, charming in private intercourse, unimpeachable in public life. He has died too soon for himself, for his State which has ever honored him, for his friends who have loved him, for his family who have regarded him with tender devotion. His life is one that may be studied with profit by all, and may be taken by young men as a model most worthy of imitation.

Justice Simpson married a daughter of Col. Henry Young, of Laurens. He leaves his wife and several sons and daughters all of whom are grown. With their grief is mingled the sorrow and tender sympathy of the whole people of South Carolina.

How Far Can You See?

How far can we see from any given height? This is a question that occurs to the inquisitive mind frequently. From the Eiffle tower, the highest artificial structure in the world, say 1,000 feet, we would enjoy a circle of vision bounded by a horizon 39 miles distant. From Mount Everest, the highest peak in the Himalayas (27,000 feet) one should see, if the air was clear enough, nearly 200 miles.

Though the horizon is restricted, the business or professional man, housewife or social queen particularly, suffering from loss of appetite, general debility, dyspepsia or from a threatened attack of malarial fever, should see their own well-being sufficiently clear to secure a bottle of that King of Medicines, Dr. Westmoreland's Calisaya Tonic. Overworked men and enervated women cannot do without it. For sale by all druggists. Wholesale by McMaster, Brice & Ketchin.

CHRISTMAS REMINISCENCE.

A Statement About Andersonville Prison From One Who Was There--Efforts of the Confederates to Effect an Exchange--United States Government to Blame, and Not Henry Wirz--Wirz's Innocence Protested by Himself a Short While Before His Execution--His Farewell Letter.

To the Editors of The News and Herald:

I am to-day confined to my room with a severe cold. The children are all out enjoying the good things that old Santa Claus has brought them, and my most estimable frow is busying herself with her Xmas dinner, whilst I am left alone with my thoughts, which naturally reverting to the past, bring up memories of other days and of other friends who have long since crossed the silent river. For three years of my life I had the honor to be a Confederate soldier, and it is to that period that my reflections carry me. The fortunes of war placed me for eight months of that time upon detached service at the noted "Rebel Prison," Andersonville. There are many interesting reminiscences which I could give you, though I wish now to tell especially of the commandant of that prison, Henry Wirz, whose ignominious death has long since become a matter of history.

Capt. Wirz truly suffered the death of a martyr in the cause of his adopted country. After months of solitary confinement he was executed on the 11th day of November, 1865, in the "old prison" yard at Washington City for the alleged crime of murder and cruelties to prisoners. His memory should ever remain green in the hearts of his adopted countrymen, and his cruel death should be for all time a hideous blot upon the pages of Yankee history. It is true that during those days at Andersonville there was much suffering. A great many deaths and some murders, but Henry Wirz was no more responsible for it than you or myself. During that time we held some 30,000 prisoners. We know that they were suffering (our own men suffered), not so much for the want of proper food or medical attention, but from a hot Southern climate to which they were unaccustomed. Several efforts were made through our commissioners to get them exchanged, but the Federal Government would not hear to it. Finally a delegation of prisoners were sent to Washington to represent the situation on the plea of humanity and ask for an exchange. Afterwards there was made an offer to deliver the sick and wounded without any equivalent in exchange There was no reply for months. Finally, and as soon as the United States could receive them, thousands, both sick and well, were delivered without exchange.

Henry Wirz was a native of Germany. A gentleman, a scholar and a soldier. He married before the war the widow of a Mississippi planter, and had an interesting family, a wife and three daughters. I have spent many pleasant hours at his house, where I was always welcome. I was with him daily in his office and a strong attachment grew up between us, and I learned to value his many noble qualities, both of head and heart. I can only exclaim, "*Requiescat in pace!*" and may his reward in the great here after be in proportion to the great injustice done him.

Capt. Wirz [illegible] under date of October 1, 186[illegible] says "that a man was at that time placed in his cell to prevent any attempt he might make to take his own life, but the man fell asleep." He writes that the reason he did not put an end to his existence was because what he suffered was the will of God, and he owed it to himself, his family and his relatives, and to the world at large to prove his innocence. As an evidence of the affection and education of Henry Wirz, I will append a copy of a letter written to his wife and children just on the eve of his execution. V.

December 25, 1890.

OLD CAPITOL PRISON,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 10th, 1865.

My Dearest Wife and Children: When these lines reach you the hand that wrote them will be stiff and cold. In a few hours from now I shall be dead. Oh! if I could express myself as I wish, if I could tell you what I have suffered when I thought about you and the children. I must leave you without the means to live, to the miseries of a cold, cruel world. Elise, do not grieve, do not despair, we will meet again in a better world. Console yourself, think as I do—that I die innocent. Who knows better than you do that all these tales of cruelties and murders are infamous lies, and why should I not say it. A great many do call me hard hearted because I tell them that I am not guilty, that I have nothing to confess. Oh! think for a moment how the thought that I must suffer and die innocent must sustain me in the last terrible hour, that when I shall stand before my maker I can say "Lord, of these things you know I am not guilty. I have sinned often, and rebelled against Thee, Oh, let my unmerited death be an attonement." Elise, I die reconciled. I die, as I hope, as a Christian. This is His holy will that I should die, and therefore let us say with Christ, "Thy will O Lord, be done."

I hardly know what to say. Oh let me beg you not to give away to despair. Think that I am gone to my Father, to your Father, to the Father of all, and that there I hope to meet you. Live for the dear children. Oh, do take good care of Cora, kiss her for me, kiss Susan and Cornelia and tell them to live so that we may meet again in the heaven above the skies. Tell them that my last thoughts, my last prayer shall be for them.

You ask me about Cora's schooling. My dear Wife, you must do as you think best. In regard to your going to Europe I would advise you to wait until you hear from them. I have written to my father; if he should be dead, my brother, I hope, is still alive. I send you his address. You had better get a certificate of our marriage, also of Cora's birth, and have it approved before a Magistrate. If you should go to Europe, you would need it. I shall hand this letter to Mr. Schade, who will send it to you, with some other papers, and books, this is all I can leave you; but no, I can leave you something more, something better, my blessing. God bless you all, and protect you, God give you what you stand in need of, and grant that you all may so live that when you die you can say, Lord thou called'st me, here I am. And now farewell, wife, children all! I will, and must close; farewell, farewell; God be with us.

Your unfortunate husband and father.

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A RESUME OF THE SESSION,

(*Greenville News.*)

The important bills of the session are—
(1) The railroad commission bill;
(2) The phosphate commission bill;
(3) The University, Clemson College and Department of Agriculture bills.

The railroad commission bill makes no immediate change. It is copied closely after the Georgia bill and gives the commission absolute power to fix and determine rates and classification for freight and passengers within the State. The new commission is to prepare and publish the rates when decided on. Whether the bill amounts to a row of pins or not depends on the commissioners who are to be chosen to-day. The railroad men made no fight against it. They believe the United States Courts can extend them from any flagrant wrongs and say they are willing to have this law tested. They do not believe it will cause any general change which will be felt by the people and that as it is the extreme limit of anti railroad legislation the Legislature will be satisfied to rest on it and let the long vexed question rest. Furthermore an increasing confidence is developing in the Governor's purpose to be conservative and to refrain any action likely to disturb the business or impede the prosperity of the State.

The phosphate commission bill, also, will result in only such action as the commission created by it decide to take. The Coosaw people against whom it is aimed, have several very strong cards to play. The whole business settles down to the question whether seven miles of Coosaw River in which the Coosaw Company has been at work several years and from which half a million tons or more of rock has already been taken, shall be left for the exclusive use of the Coosaw Company, which is using a million dollar plant, or thrown open for the mining of anybody who will pay a royalty to be agreed upon.

This bill is the only one to which there has been strong and organized opposition perished in one house or the other. It is doubtful if the phosphate bill would have survived even trimmed and pruned as it is, if it had not had behind it in addition to the administration the power of the land phosphate companies and their friends. Yet this is Governor Tillman's own Legislature elected on his platform and largely composed of men chosen because of their enthusiastic support of him; and it has not been bamboozled and debauched in those matters.

It is to be hoped that the University, Clemson College and Department of Agriculture matters are now settled and definitely out of politics. The settlement is one which promises to work well and to the general satisfaction of the people. It is a settlement by general consent and agreement and puts the two institutions on a definite and solid basis.

Probably most of the members of the Legislature will, when they come to review their work, be astounded to see how little there really was to be done to bring the State's affairs entirely into line with the Farmers' Movement platform, how slight the changes are and how easily they could have been made without all the row and danger and bitterness of last summer.

The only thing really accomplished in legislation is the change in the Department of Agriculture and the two colleges and the suspension of work on the State House, both of which will probably command general approval. The rest of it is all in the future. The trial justices' bill, the [illegible] in the school districts, the calling of a constitutional convention have all been postponed until next session and so has the matter of reapportionment.

This is the small basis of achievement with the help of the caucus, of unlimited and undisputed power in the administration and with the most energetic leadership that could be had. This is the result to the public. John Lawrence Manning Irby has been elected United States Senator for six years at $5,000 a year. He gets $30,000. George Washington Shell has been elected to Congress for two years at $5,000. He gets $10,000. Benjamin Ryan Tillman has been elected Governor for two years at $3,500 and house rent. He gets, say, $8,000. These three gentlemen are tolerably solid. The Shell manifesto and its results have paid them very well. Whether the public has got the worth of its sweat and hurrah and disturbance is a matter of which the public may judge.

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November 10 1890. 11-11tf

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