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SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS ITEMS

News of Interest Gleaned From All Sections of the State and Arranged For Busy Readers

State Pardon Board.

Columbia, Special.—The Board of Pardons, consisting of Messrs. R. Mays Cleveland, of Greenville, C. W. Savage, of Colleton, and W. A. Clark, of Columbia, met last week to consider the petitions for pardon referred to the board by the governor. There were only four such petitions referred, as the governor has acted on most of the petitions presented within the last three months, since the last meeting of the board. The petitions referred are the following:

Lawrence Hampton, convicted of murder in Greenwood, and sentenced to be hanged. Governor Ansel granted a respite until the 16th of this month, and it will be recalled that the governor's secretary, Mr. Bethea, went to Greenwood during the flood, at much inconvenience and with great difficulty, to get the respite there in time and prevent the hanging.

Gary Renew, Aiken County, petitioner, sentenced to five years in the Reformatory.

Thos. Wells, Laurens, manslaughter, three years, from January, 1906.

Robert Gunnells, Greenville, rape, sentenced to eleven years in September, 1903. The case of Gunnells has been before the governor and pardon board before, having been referred to the board by Governor Heyward first in September, 1906, and refused by the board the following January, and again in September, 1907. Gunnells, a young white man of excellent family, served in the Philippines, and was said to be mentally unbalanced by his life there. Returning to his old home in Greenville he committed an atrocious crime. His mother has been untiring in her efforts to secure a pardon and was here to press the petition before the board.

The recommendations of the board of pardons is not binding on the governor, and he is not under the law compelled to refer any case to the board, the pardoning power being vested in the governor solely under the law.

Aetna Mill Unsold.

Union, Special.—The Aetna Cotton Mill was advertised to be sold last Wednesday by the trustee in bankruptcy, but the sale did not take place. There were several prospective purchasers, some of whom had deposited the required certified check, but the upset price of \$250,000, seems to have been larger than any one wanted to bid as no one offered to pay it. The sale was therefore called off, and the property, which cost \$450,000 and is in good condition, will be again offered for sale about the middle of November at a lower figure.

Verdict Against Southern.

Spartanburg, Special.—In the suit against the Southern Railway for damages in the sum of \$50,000 brought by J. M. Turbyfill, administrator of the estate of Miss B. Hand, the young school teacher who was killed at Duncan last November while crossing the railway tracks, the jury returned a verdict \$5,000 dollars. Miss Hand was on her way to visit sick friends, and while crossing the tracks was struck by No. 37, which was running several hours late. The young lady was a sister of Prof. Hand, of South Carolina University.

Spartanburg May Get Orphanage.

Spartanburg, Special.—The committee having in charge the matter of selecting a location for the Episcopal Orphanage will visit Spartanburg in the near future to further consider the advisability of selecting Spartanburg. Well known citizens here have agreed to give fifty acres of land in the suburbs for the home.

Looks Like Infanticide.

Lexington, Special.—What seems to be a clear case of infanticide came to light a few days ago, when the body of an infant was found near a branch in the upper part of town. The discovery was made by a negro woman, who was attracted to the scene by the terrible odor. The child was wrapped in cotton, and had evidently been born a week, as the arms was almost ready to drop off at the shoulders from decomposition. Those who saw it, say that it was impossible to discern whether the child died from natural causes or whether it was killed by the heartless parent and carried to the swamp with the hope of covering up the crime. The supposition is that the party who placed it where it was found intended throwing it into the water, so that the discovery would never be made. It has caused a great deal of talk among the negroes, but they are very cautious how they speak. It is said that the child had been moved since it was found as it could not be found later. There has been no official action taken in the case, but it is one that should be investigated, and it is very likely that Coroner Clerk will look into the situation immediately.

School Information Wanted.

Superintendent of Education Martin has requested the county superintendents of education to send him a brief description of school conditions in their respective counties, and also an outline of the greatest needs of the schools, as they may appear to the county superintendents. Mr. Martin proposes to incorporate these articles in his last annual report, which will be the fortieth annual report of the department of education. He believes that this collection of short articles in addition to the statistical reports from the county superintendents will be beneficial, not only to the legislature, but also to the future students of our educational development.

Covers the Field.

As a purveyor of reliable news The Columbia State is easily in a class by itself. With unsurpassed facilities for gathering the world's happenings, added to its own staff of reliable and energetic special correspondents, both State and general events are recorded with a degree of exactness and detail that cannot be surpassed. In this campaign year when things are constantly happening to keep the public interest at concert pitch it is hardly to be conceived how anyone who desires to be well informed and who lives within reach of this fine daily can afford to be without it.

General Cotton Market.

These figures represent prices paid for spot middling at different points: Charlotte.....81-2 Columbia.....81-2 Galveston.....3-4 New Orleans.....8.60 Mobile.....8.60 Savannah.....8.60 Charleston.....81-2 Wilmington.....83-4 Norfolk.....87-8 Baltimore.....9 New York.....9.10 Boston.....9.10

Charlotte Produce.

Corn.....85 Bacon.....11-12 Lard.....12 Chickens.....25 to 50 Eggs.....28 Butter.....15 to 30

Wright to Speak in Richmond.

Washington, Special.—Secretary Wright has received invitations from Norfolk and Lynchburg, Va., to speak on behalf of Judge Taft before the close of the campaign but has not decided whether to accept. He will speak at Richmond on the 28th instant. He said that he did not expect to speak in Tennessee during the campaign.

WATERWAY ENDORSED

Second Day of the Great Waterway Conference Addressed By Colonel Bryan and Others.

Chicago, Special.—Addresses by William J. Bryan and Gifford Pinchot the latter being chairman of the national conservation commission, the reading of a letter from James J. Hill, short addresses by delegates, and a big reception at the Coliseum at night were the features of the second day of the convention of the Lakes-to-the-Gulf Deep Waterways Association. Mr. Bryan, who spoke earnestly in favor of deep waterways, not only from the lakes to the gulf but in all other parts of the country, where increased transportation facilities were needed, was an enthusiastically received, as was William H. Taft when he opened the convention the previous day.

Mr. Bryan's Address.

In addressing the convention Mr. Bryan said in part:

"You cannot give the people too good facilities for transportation of their merchandise. If you tell me you want to improve the Mississippi I tell you that is all right, I will help you improve it just as far as you please, and make the canal as wide as you please and as deep as you please, and when you get to improving the Mississippi I will start out all alone if necessary to improve every river that empties into the Mississippi. Water transportation is the natural transportation. God made the rivers, man made the railroads. When you finish a river sufficiently deep for commerce, or a canal upon which boats can float, you make it possible for a man with small capital to act while the railroads make it possible for men with large capital to act. Where there is a river any man who can build a boat can engage in transportation, and if he cannot build a big boat he can build a little boat and if you have a large number of little boats the big boat will have to meet the rate that the little boat fixes. You will find it much easier to regulate rates on water than on land because competition can be much more active on water than on land. We are an exporting nation. We send our agricultural products to foreign markets, and when our wheat or our cotton reaches the London market its price is fixed there by the competition which it meets. If a bushel of wheat sells for a dollar in London and it takes fifty cents to get it from the farm to London the farmer gets fifty cents a bushel for his wheat. If you can so improve transportation that the farmer can get his wheat from his farm to Liverpool for twenty-five cents you have added twenty-five cents to the farmers' price for this wheat. It is a fact that is admitted that the railroad cannot carry freight as cheaply as the boat can, and therefore every farmer is interested in establishing water communication wherever water communication is possible.

Believer in Waterways.

"I believe in improving the waterways everywhere, no matter whether these waterways are the rivers that run down the mountainsides into the ocean and the West or the waterways that converge in the Mississippi valley and carry their floods to the gulf. I believe that it is the duty of those charged with the business of government to develop these things upon which a nation's prosperity depends. "If the work should be done, and I believe that it should, then you people who believe it should be done should agree upon the best methods by which to do it. But I repeat that you must not be frightened because it may require an investment. At St. Louis last fall they resolved that \$500,000,000 spent in improving the waterways of the Mississippi valley would bring an interest in the way of decreased cost of transportation amounting to \$180,000,000 a year. Why, my friends, if it only saved \$50,000,000 a year it would be ten per cent. interest on the investment. "I believe that the plan should be commenced now. I believe that it should be a comprehensive plan, that it should deal with the entire subject and that it should be a permanent plan; that we should begin now to lay the foundation for the future greatness of this country, in the development of these natural resources, these God-given water courses of ours."

OUR SCHOOLS

BY PROF. WILLIAM H. HAND, University of South Carolina. Paper Number Five.

Inadequate Supervision.—In South Carolina there are three units of school administration—the State, the county, and the school district. "An educational system is a great business." In every organized business there must be machinery; that machinery must be repaired, adjusted, and articulated; and some competent responsible person must supervise that machinery. A successful supervisor must be a capable man, an experienced man, and a courageous man. He must be reasonably well paid, definitely responsible to somebody, and reasonably secure in his position as long as he is efficient. What of the supervision of our educational system? What do we expect, and what have we a right to expect?

What does the fundamental law of the State require in the office of the State Superintendent? Does it require that he shall be an educated man, or a man of experience in school affairs, or a man who knows anything of teaching and of teachers, or a man himself qualified to teach? He is expected to direct the educational policy of a State, and to maintain a system of school for over three hundred thousand children. What salary is offered to a man big enough to fill this position? Nineteen hundred dollars a year. How does this rank with the salary offered a man big enough to run one cotton mill? How does he get the position, and on what does the security of it depend? What is likely to be his reward for any display of courage in his office? Every second year he is compelled to neglect the duties of his office for at least two months and to spend at least four hundred dollars to get the opportunity to speak ten minutes in each county telling the dear (indifferent) people that he should be re-elected. Under our present system of electing the State Superintendent, and with the two-year tenure of office the entire educational policy of the State may be reversed inside one year. In a recent editorial The News and Courier pertinently says, "In late years the people have shown a growing improvement in their estimate of the place of superintendent of education, choosing as a rule, trained teachers for it, but there is no assurance so long as the office is filled by popular vote that incapable men will not be elected to it solely because of their ingratiating manner, or as a reward for political service. The superintendent of education should be appointed by the governor or by a commission, after thorough investigation and the salary should be sufficient to command the services of experts, and at the same time remove them from temptation."

A succession of able State superintendents could not build and maintain a system of high-class schools, unless the county supervision be good. The wisest policies of a State superintendent would avail but little unless the county superintendents were able, willing and courageous enough to carry these policies to success. In the matter of administration the county superintendency is the key to the situation. What do we require of the county superintendent, what do we expect, what do we get, and—what do we give? Do we require that the county superintendent shall be an expert or experienced educator? Is he required to have any knowledge of schools or of teaching? Is there anything to prohibit an illiterate from holding that office? He is not required to be competent to teach, although by law he is required to give his teachers instruction in the art and methods of teaching. Does the county demand that its superintendent be at least the equal of the superintendent in court house town? To be perfectly plain and honest, have we not had men elected and re-elected to the office of county superintendent to supervise the whole county, who could not have been elected to any position in the best schools of their counties? Many of them would not essay to teach in the best schools of their counties. They understand full well that the public does not expect

such fitness of them. That is our fault, not theirs. The public mind does not think of a county superintendent as a man of education, experience, tact, and leadership in school matters. It thinks of him as a man who listens to neighborhood quarrels about district lines, and about the appointment and removal of trustees, and who sits in his office one day in the week to sign teachers' pay warrants.

In speaking thus of incompetent county superintendents, I have no intention whatever of being personal. I am happy to count among my best friends in the State many of the county superintendents. Many of them are competent and efficient men, sacrificing themselves on the altar of an unappreciative public, for their reward is contemptible. We ask forty-two qualified men to direct over 6,200 teachers, to act as guardians for 314,000 children, and to keep and to disburse nearly a million and a half dollars; we offer them an average of \$684, an insult to an efficient man! The city of Greenville has convinced itself that it is economy to pay its superintendent \$1,800 a year to supervise the work of 44 teachers; while Greenville county pays its superintendent \$700 to supervise 275 teachers. Sumter pays its city superintendent \$2,400 a year to direct 36 teachers; Sumter county offers its superintendent \$900 to direct about 150 teachers. It is a source of wonder why we have as many efficient county superintendents as we have. All honor to the competent man patriotic enough to serve his county on a contemptible salary! But shame upon a people who compel patriotism to crawl in the dust!

I know that we have some people who claim that our schools are already too much supervised. That depends entirely upon what is meant by supervision. If it means the constant meddling in petty details, or the jealous interference with teachers in matters concerning only themselves, or the insistence upon teachers becoming cheap imitators of a faddish superintendent, then perhaps we have too much. But if supervision means the readiness and ability to assist the teacher, the power to inspire her, the tact to prune and refine and strengthen her, and the manhood to sustain her (and it usually does), then I dissent vehemently. All over the State we have young men and women who as teachers ought to succeed, but who are failing because they have no one to advise them and to support them in the crucial moments of trial. This is especially true in the rural and village schools. Is it any wonder that the young teachers flock to the towns?

The rural schools must have better supervision. Nearly seventy per cent. of the white school children of this State are in the rural schools. They are entitled to as good and as close supervision as are any other children. Proper supervision can not be given as long as we multiply the one-teacher schools with fifteen pupils each, and permit the popular election of supervisors at a salary of \$684. On a salary of \$684 what can a county superintendent do toward the real supervision of 150 teachers scattered all over the county, in perhaps 100 school houses?

Require that the county superintendent be an expert educator, let him be appointed by a board and responsible to that board, keep him in office as long as he is efficient and pay him an expert's salary. We shall find the men prepared to do the work. Then we shall stop frittering away the school fund, increase the fund, and we shall get results. Sooner or later our people are going to come to look at this matter somewhat as did Hon. John J. McMahan in his report for 1900.

Russia Getting Her Fleet Ready.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—Fearful that Austria intends to take advantage of the commotion in Serbia to deal the boldest blow of all—annexation of Serbia—the Czar has ordered the mobilization of the Black Sea fleet. Russia still insists upon an international conference to completely revise the Berlin treaty, while the latest word from England is that she has not receded from her position that only existing issues must be considered.