

THE ROAD LAW.

FULL TEXT OF A VERY IMPORTANT ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE.

A Document That Should be Read by Every Man Liable to Road Duty in the County, and Then Cut Out and Preserve.

Because of the wide-spread interest which is felt in the new road law, and to correct any misapprehensions as to the terms of the existing law by which the county commissioners and the public must be governed, the law is herewith published for public information.

An act to amend an act entitled "an act to provide a system of county government for the several counties of this State, so far as it relates to the working and maintaining the roads and highways in this State."

Section 1. Be it enacted by the general assembly of the State of South Carolina, That all roads, highways and ferries that have been laid out or appointed by virtue of an act of the general assembly, or any order of court, or by an order of the county board of commissioners, are hereby declared to be public roads and ferries, and the townships boards of commissioners in each township, together with the county supervisor, shall have the supervision and control of the public roads in their respective townships; they are hereby incorporated, and the township board of commissioners of such township shall be their corporate name. They shall have the right to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in any of the courts of this State. The township board of commissioners and county board of commissioners, as hereafter set forth in this chapter, shall have full power and authority to order the laying out and repairing of public roads where necessary, to appoint where bridges and ferries or fords shall be made, to discontinue such roads, bridges and ferries as shall be found useless, and so alter roads so as to make them more useful.

Sec. 2. That the township board of commissioners of the several townships of each county, subject to the approval of the county board of commissioners or the supervisor of the county, shall, on the first Tuesday of April next, or within four weeks thereafter, divide their respective townships into suitable road districts, and make a record thereof in a book kept for that purpose, and annually thereafter may make such alterations therein as they may deem proper, and cause a brief description thereof to be made on the township records, and also to furnish each overseer with a description of his road district. The township board of commissioners of each township, at their annual meeting, and annually thereafter, shall elect from the qualified electors of their townships, liable to road duty, one overseer for each road district whose term of office shall be two years from the date of appointment, and who shall receive such compensation as the county board of commissioners may fix. Such overseer shall not be compelled to serve more than one term; and each overseer who refuses or neglects to qualify and serve shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten dollars and costs, or be sentenced to the county chain gang, suit to be brought by the township magistrate before the nearest magistrate. Money so collected shall go into the road fund of the county, and be credited to the road district from which it was collected. That when any vacancy shall occur in the office of overseer by death, resignation or otherwise, the township board of commissioners wherein such vacancy occurs shall appoint some suitable person to fill the vacancy: Provided, That such overseer may appoint some suitable person liable to road duty on his road a warrant, and such person shall be exempt from road duty for the time he acts as warrant.

Sec. 3. The roadbed shall be not less than 16 nor more than 20 feet wide, exclusive of ditches, roots and runners, unless so ordered by the county board of commissioners. The county board of commissioners of the several counties of the State are hereby authorized and empowered to change the location of any of the public roads in any of the counties of this State, where in their judgment steep hills and rough places in said roads can be avoided by so doing, and where such change would be to the material interest of the traveling public, and in like manner condemn abandoned bridge and sites, and assess damages therefor as herein provided: Provided, That the county board of commissioners shall grant the persons owning the land where such alteration is to be made, and interested in such change or alteration, notice of the day on which the matter of the change or alteration of such road shall be considered. Such person shall have the right to be heard for or against such change or alteration, and offer testimony for or against the same. For the purpose of relocating such roads they shall have the power to call to their assistance a surveyor, who shall survey and lay off such roads under their direction, so the grade shall not exceed seven and a-half inches to the rod wherever practicable. The said commissioners shall have the power to condemn the land so laid off. If the owner or owners of such land shall signify his or their refusal to the opening of a highway through such lands without previous compensation, the county board of commissioners requiring such right of way shall give ten days' notice in writing to the person or persons through whose lands such right of way is required, or their intention to establish such right of way, naming in such notice a person who will act as referee for them in the location thereof, such owner or owners shall, within ten days thereafter, appoint a referee for the same purpose. The referee so appointed shall, within ten days thereafter, meet at some convenient place and appoint a third referee, and the three referees so appointed shall constitute a board of referees for the location of such highway, and to determine the compensation and damages for the same. From the decision of the board an appeal shall be allowed to the circuit court for the county in which said road is proposed to be opened, where the trial shall be de novo before a jury, and the judgment so obtained shall be paid by the county board of

commissioners as other claims against the county are paid: Provided, That no road shall be established as set forth in this act shall be so established as to run within fifty yards of a dwelling house without the consent of the owner of said dwelling, and it shall be the duty of each and every overseer to work the roads under his charge thoroughly as he goes, arching the same to centre, with drain on each side to convey the water, and when necessary to protect such drains from washing, by placing in stone gravel, or other substance. Whenever it is necessary to convey water to or provide for it to cross any road, he shall have the drains across such road laid in stone, gravel, or other hard substance, and of such width as to afford an easy crossing where a bridge may not be necessary, and he shall protect the roads by suitable drains from interference by cultivation or otherwise; to open or cause to be opened all public roads and highways which shall have been or may hereafter be laid out and established in his road district, the same to be kept in repair, and remove or cause to be removed all obstructions that may from time to time be found therein; for which purpose the supervisors are hereby authorized to enter upon any uncultivated lands or improved lands unencumbered by crops near to or adjoining such roads, to cut and carry away timber, except trees or groves or improved lands planted or left for ornament or shade, and to dig or cause to be dug and carried away any earth, gravel, sand or stone which may be necessary for which compensation shall be made, and to enter on any lands adjoining or lying near the road to make such drains or ditches through the same as he may deem necessary for the benefit of the roads, doing as little injury to said lands and improvements thereon and timber as the nature of the case and the public good will permit; and the drains and ditches so made shall be kept open by such overseers, and shall not be obstructed by the owner or occupier of such lands, or any other person or persons having the same in charge under the penalty of forfeiting a sum not exceeding \$10, or imprisonment for not less than 15 nor more than 30 days for each and every offence, to be sued for by the overseer, and paid over when collected by the magistrate before whom action is brought to the county treasurer and applied to the road district from which it was collected.

Sec. 4. That all able-bodied male persons and all male persons able to perform, or cause to be performed, the labor herein required, between the ages of 18 and 50 years, except ministers of the Gospel in actual charge of a congregation, and persons permanently disabled in the military service of this State, and persons who served in the late war, shall be liable annually to do and perform four days' labor on the highways, under the direction of the overseer of the road district in which he shall reside; and it shall require eight hours of actual work to constitute a day's work under this section, except in Horry county, where the ages shall be from 21 to 50 years. Provided, further, That if any person liable to road duty shall pay to the county treasurer the sum of \$2, except the county of Aiken, where it shall be \$1, except the county of Kershaw, where the commutation tax shall be \$1, and the same shall be received in lieu of the labor upon the public roads; Provided, That the county board of commissioners of any county cause to be levied an additional tax, not to exceed one mill, on all of the taxable property of any township in their county, when so requested by a written petition signed by two-thirds of the freeholders of such townships, such a tax to be collected as other taxes, and to be expended upon the roads and highways of each township.

Sec. 5. That it shall be the duty of every overseer to make out a list of all persons liable to road duty. Said overseer is hereby authorized to demand of any person or corporation the name of any and all hands in his her or its employ; and any person or corporation receiving of such overseer, or warrant by him appointed, such demand, failing or refusing to furnish a list containing the names of all male employees, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and for every such offense shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$10 nor more than \$30, or imprisonment in the county jail for not less than 10 nor more than 30 days, and placed on a list in the hands of the warrant, who shall serve notice, either by seeing the parties personally and giving verbal notice or leaving written notice at the residence of the party, to order out every such person resident as aforesaid on the first day of January and the first day of December annually, to do and perform the work aforesaid on the public road to which each person may be assigned, said assignment to be on roads near the residence of said party, or any road to be changed or opened within four miles. And if any person, being warned by such overseer as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect, having had at least 12 hours' notice, to attend by himself or substitute to the acceptance of the overseer, or, having attended, shall refuse to obey the direction of the overseer, or shall spend the time in idleness or any intention to the duties assigned him, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be fined not more than \$10 nor less than \$5 and costs or be sentenced to county chain gang not more than ten nor less than five days.

Sec. 6. That in case any person shall remove from one county to another, or from one township to another in the same county, or one township to another in the same county, who has prior to such removal, performed the whole or any part of the labor aforesaid, or in any other way has paid the whole or any part of the amount aforesaid in lieu of such labor, and shall produce a certificate of the same from the overseer of the proper district, such certificate shall be a complete discharge for the amount therein specified.

Sec. 7. That any person warned to perform any labor upon the public roads and highways under the provisions of this act shall by himself or a suitable substitute, who shall not be under the age of 16 years, appear at the time and place appointed by the overseer at the hour of 7 o'clock in the forenoon, and shall bring with him such necessary tools and implements used on a farm as the overseer may direct.

Sec. 8. That for the purpose provided for in the preceding section of this act, the residence of any person who has a family shall be held to be where his family resides, and the residence of any other person shall be held to be where he boards or may be found. All tramps or persons not having any

visible means of obtaining a livelihood shall be subject to road duty.

Sec. 9. And every overseer is hereby required to account to the board of township commissioners at their annual settlement for all tools received, material used or funds expended, under this act, and they shall also return a full and true list and statement of the names of all persons within their respective districts who have been ordered out to perform the labor as required by this act, and after each working to note the hours actually worked, work each hand does, and he shall make and furnish a list to the board of township commissioners of those who have refused or neglected to perform the same, and shall by oath attest the correctness of each list so kept; and all fines and forfeitures used for and recovered under the provisions of this act shall be paid over on demand by the magistrate or consable collecting the same to the county treasurer wherein such fines or forfeitures accrued; and the several overseers shall also render an account to the township board of commissioners at the annual settlement of all moneys expended and all property remaining in their hands at the time of the settlement, also all judgements that remain unpaid, and the name of the judgment debtor, and magistrate before whom such judgments were obtained, and the amounts thereof, and the township board of commissioners shall make such order as to the prosecution of the suits by the overseer of the proper district against such delinquents in which such offense shall have been committed, or any person suing for the same, before any magistrate within the county where such offense shall have been committed, or by indictment in the court of general sessions or suit in the court of common pleas. And all fines so accruing under the provisions of this section, when collected, shall be paid over by the magistrate to the county treasurer for the district in which such offense was committed. And every twenty-four hours such corporation, person or persons, as aforesaid, after being notified, shall suffer such obstructions, to the hindrance or inconvenience of travelers, or any person going along or upon such road or highway, shall be deemed an additional offence against the provisions of this act.

Sec. 10. That all property that may remain in the hands of the overseer at the time of the annual settlement with the township board of commissioners shall be turned over to his successor in office as soon as such successor shall be elected and qualified, taking a receipt therefor, and deposit said receipt with the township commissioner. It shall be lawful for any overseer to sue out executions on any judgment that remains unpaid within his proper district at any time when, in his opinion, the same can be collected, and the money so received and collected shall be paid over to county treasurer as provided in the foregoing section by the magistrate so collecting.

Sec. 11. That the county supervisor of roads and highways within the county be, and is hereby, authorized to have the overseer to construct foot-paths or bridges over streams, swamps, marshes, and along the highways of his county.

Sec. 12. That each overseer within his district may erect and keep up, at the expense of the county, at the forks and crossroads, a post and guide board or sign-board, containing an inscription in legible letters directing the way and distance to the town or towns, or public place or places, situated on each road, respectively.

Sec. 13. That if any person shall willfully demolish, throw down, alter or deface any guide-board, every person so offending shall, upon conviction thereof, before any magistrate of the proper county, be fined in any sum not exceeding \$10 and the cost of the suit, or be sentenced to labor on the public works of the county for a term of not more than 30 days, and the money, when collected, shall be paid over to the county treasurer.

Sec. 14. That the county board of commissioners be, and they are hereby, authorized to furnish signboards, ploughs, scrapers, or other tools for the use of the several districts, at their discretion, to be paid for out of any moneys in the county treasury not otherwise appropriated, and turn the same over to the chairman of the township board of commissioners and take his receipt therefor. The township board of commissioners shall take a receipt from each overseer for such implements as they may deliver to him, showing to him the number, kind and condition thereof, and such overseer shall be liable for any injury or damage that may result to such implements, or to any of them, by proper use thereof, or by unnecessary exposure to the weather, during the time the same may be in his possession; and he shall, on the first Tuesday of February annually, return the same to said township board of commissioners. The amount for which overseers may be liable for such improper use or neglect may be recovered by action in the name of the township board of commissioners, or any person using the ploughs, scrapers, or other tools furnished by the county board of commissioners for other purposes than the purpose for which the same was furnished, shall be fined not more than \$50 nor less than \$5, or imprisoned not less than 10 nor more 30 days.

Sec. 15. That the county board of commissioners in the several counties may, in their discretion, authorize and require the county supervisors to hire and employ overseers and laborers upon the public highways under control of overseers, at such compensation as the board may determine. Commutation taxes and such other funds as may be applicable to highways may be used in payment for such work.

Sec. 16. That each and every overseer who shall neglect or refuse to perform the several duties enjoined on him by this act, or who shall, under any pretense whatever, give or sign any receipt or certificate purporting to be a receipt, or certificate for labor in work performed or money received, unless the labor shall have been performed, or money paid prior to giving or signing of such receipt or certificate, shall forfeit for every such offence not less than \$10 nor more than \$50, to be recovered by an action before any magistrate of the county, and it is hereby made the duty of the township board of commissioners to prosecute all offences against the provisions of this section. Provided, That if any overseer conceives himself aggrieved by the judgment of such magistrate, he may, on giving sufficient security in double the sum of the judgment found against the party offending, to said magistrate for the payment of the cost, appeal to the court of common pleas, which shall make such order therein as it may appear just and reasonable.

Sec. 17. That it shall be unlawful for any overseer to perform or cause labor to be performed on any road not regularly laid out and established by law.

Sec. 18. That any time during the year, when any public highways shall be obstructed, it shall be the duty of the overseer of the district in which the same may be, forthwith to cause such obstruction to be removed, for which purpose he shall immediately order out such persons liable to do work upon the public highways of his

road district, as he may deem necessary to remove said obstructions. If the person or persons thus called out have performed their four days' labor upon the public highways, the overseer shall give to such person or persons a certificate for the amount of labor performed, and said certificate shall apply on the labor that may be due for such person or persons, for the ensuing year.

Sec. 19. That if any person or persons, corporations, or any conductor of any train of railroad cars, or any other agent or servant of any railroad company shall obstruct unnecessarily any public road or highway by permitting any railroad car or cars or locomotive to remain upon or across any street, public roads or highways for a longer period than five minutes, after notice to remove said cars has been given to conductor, engineer, agent or such other person in charge of said train, or shall permit any timber, wood or other obstructions to remain upon or across any such street, road or highway, to the hindrance or inconvenience of travelers, or any person or persons passing along or upon such street, road or highway, every person or corporation so offending shall forfeit any sum not exceeding twenty or less than five dollars, and shall be liable for all damages arising to any person from such obstruction or injury to such road or highway, to be recovered by an action at the suit of the township board of commissioners in which such offense shall have been committed, or any person suing for the same, before any magistrate within the county where such offense shall have been committed, or by indictment in the court of general sessions or suit in the court of common pleas. And all fines so accruing under the provisions of this section, when collected, shall be paid over by the magistrate to the county treasurer for the district in which such offense was committed. And every twenty-four hours such corporation, person or persons, as aforesaid, after being notified, shall suffer such obstructions, to the hindrance or inconvenience of travelers, or any person going along or upon such road or highway, shall be deemed an additional offence against the provisions of this act.

Sec. 20. That every railroad company or other corporation, the servant or servants, agent or agents, employee or employees, of which shall in any manner obstruct any street, public road or highway, shall be liable to pay all fines which may be assessed against such servant or servants, agent or agents, employee or employees, for so obstructing any such street, public road or highway, and such liability may be enforced by execution against said railroad company or other corporation on the judgment rendered against such servant or servants, agent or agents, employee or employees, for so obstructing such street, public road or highway.

Sec. 21. It shall be unlawful for any railroad company to obstruct the drainage of any public road or highway by its roadbed or otherwise, or empty the water from its ditches into any public road or highway, to the injury of said highway; and if any railroad company, being warned by the overseer of the proper district by leaving a written notice with any agent, or informing any station agent of said railroad company personally, shall refuse or neglect to remedy the same to the acceptance of the overseer, shall forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding \$50 nor less than \$20 to be recovered by an action at the suit of the township board of commissioners before any magistrate; and every ten days such railroad company, after being notified, shall neglect or refuse to remedy such offence shall be deemed an additional offence against the provisions of this act; and the money so collected shall be paid by the magistrate so collecting to the county treasurer, and the money so paid over shall become a part of the county road fund.

Sec. 22. It shall be the further duty of such overseer to cause each railroad company to construct and keep in good repair the roadbed of all public roads across the roadbed of said railroad company; and if any railroad company, being duly warned by the overseer of the proper district, by leaving a written notice with any station agent, or by informing any station agent of said railroad company personally, shall neglect or refuse to construct or repair such roadbed to the acceptance of the overseer, shall forfeit any sum not exceeding \$50 nor less than \$30, to be recovered by an action at the suit of the township board of commissioners before a magistrate of the county, and the money so collected shall be paid by the magistrate collecting to the county treasurer, and the money so paid over shall become a part of the county road fund; and every five days such railroad company, after being duly notified, shall neglect or refuse to construct or repair said road, shall be deemed an additional offence against the provisions of this act.

Sec. 23. The supervisor shall furnish each member of the township board of commissioners with a sufficient number of printed copies of this act for the use of overseer and township board of commissioners, and the county board of commissioners shall furnish the necessary books and blanks for the use of the township and township board of overseers. The township board of commissioners shall not be off any portion of any incorporated city, town or village in any road district.

Sec. 24. That the passage of this act shall not be held to have altered or changed any actions which may have occurred to any one under an act entitled "An act to regulate the roads and highways of Barnwell county." The roads, bridges and highways of the counties adopting the contract system shall be worked as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 25. That if the county board of commissioners conclude to adopt the contract system for working, maintaining and operating the several sections of the highways, roads, bridges, and ferries in the several townships in their respective counties, or any part thereof, the county supervisor, as soon as practicable thereafter, may advertise in the newspaper published in the county once a week for three weeks, and by notices posted in two or more conspicuous places in the several townships, or the township to be worked by the contract system, for bids from responsible persons for the performance of the work as above set forth, and shall furnish specification, of all such work or contracts as have been advertised. Any and all bids made shall be in writing, sealed, and addressed to the county supervisor,

and by him opened in the presence of and submitted to the county board of commissioners, and it shall be the duty of said board to accept the lowest bid made by a reasonable person or party: Provided the county board of commissioners shall have power to reject any and all bids; and said board is hereby empowered to hire overseers and laborers, and have the work performed as in its judgement may be most expedient and for the best interest of the county: Provided, further, That the county supervisors of the counties of this State are hereby authorized and empowered to arrange to work the roads of their respective counties, or to lease to or from the county board of commissioners of any county, upon such terms as may be agreed upon by the respective county boards of commissioners, any convicts sentenced to perform hard labor upon the public works of any county, and said convicts may be worked upon the roads, highways, bridges or other public works of the county where convicted, or of the county to which they have been leased.

Sec. 26. That the county board of commissioners of said counties, and they are hereby, authorized to levy annually a sum not exceeding one mill on all taxable property of the respective counties, which shall constitute a part of the county road fund, to be expended by the said board in the same manner as is provided by law for the use and expenditure of the commutation tax in lieu of road duty; and such tax shall be collected at the same time and manner as is provided by law for the collection of taxes levied for ordinary county purposes; Provided, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to Orangeburg county.

Sec. 27. That the county treasurers of the counties of this State are hereby authorized and empowered to receive from any and all persons liable to road duties in the counties of Abbeville, - dollars to be fixed by the county board of commissioners; Aiken, one dollar; Anderson, one dollar; Barnwell, one dollar; Beaufort, two dollars; Berkeley, one dollar; Chester, two dollars; Chesterfield, one dollar; Charleston, one dollar; Colleton, two dollars; Clarendon, two dollars; Darlington, one dollar; Edgefield, two dollars; Fairfield, two dollars; Florence, two dollars; Georgetown, two dollars; Greenville, one dollar; Hampton, one dollar; Horry, two dollars; Kershaw, one dollar; Lancaster, one dollar; Laurens, two dollars; Lexington, one dollar; Newberry, one dollar; Marlboro, two dollars; Marion, two dollars; Pickens, one dollar and fifty cents; Richland, two dollars; Spartanburg, one dollar; Saluda, two dollars; Sumter, one dollar; Union, one dollar; Oconee, one and one-half dollars; Orangeburg, two dollars; Williamsburg, two dollars; York, one dollar as commutation tax; and all moneys so paid shall be set apart and known as the county road fund: Provided, that such commutation tax be paid for the fiscal year 1896 between the first day of March and the first day of April, and hereafter said commutation tax shall be paid for the succeeding year when State and county taxes are paid, and that the county treasurers shall furnish a receipt to the person so paying the same.

Sec. 28. That the county treasurer of said counties shall furnish the county supervisor of their respective counties a list containing the names of all persons who have paid their commutation tax; and the chairman of the township boards of commissioners shall also prepare and furnish to the supervisor a list of all persons liable to road duty in their respective townships; and the said supervisor shall check off the names of all such persons reported on the list of the county treasurers as having paid their commutation tax; and all persons whose names shall remain on the list so checked shall be required to perform road duty not exceeding ten days in the aggregate, and shall be assigned to such duty by the county supervisor under one of the contractors in the township having under control the section or sections nearest the residence of such person or persons. It shall be the duty of the contractor of any section to receive such person or persons assigned to him by the county supervisor, and shall allow to the township board of commissioners such sum per diem for the labor of any such person or persons as may be agreed upon by contractors and the county board of commissioners and said sum shall be credited upon the amount due or to become due said contractor by the said board as hereinafter provided; and any person assigned to work under a contractor as herein provided and refusing or failing to do so shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and fined in a sum not less than five nor more than twenty dollars, or imprisonment in the county jail for a period of not less than ten nor more than thirty days, or sentenced for the same period on chain gang.

Sec. 29. The county board of commissioners are hereby authorized to work the highways in their counties, or any part thereof, by chain gang, without regard to the system or systems used in other portions of their counties.

Sec. 30. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with this act, be hereby, repealed.

Sec. 31. That this act shall go into effect on its approval by the governor. Approved the 23d day of March, A. D., 1896.

Nearly Lynched by Women. SHAMOKIN, Pa., April 20.—Because she refuses to reveal the hiding place of her new born babe, Miss Annie Boatner, of Hickory Ridge, was nearly lynched by a crowd of women of that place this morning. They placed a clothes line about her neck, but not until it was considerably tightened did she admit giving birth to a child. She then showed the women where she had buried the child on a lot and made a confession of her crime. A number of men kept the women at bay, else they would most likely have lynched her. Miss Boatner is now lying in a critical condition in the foot house and is under police surveillance, pending an inquest by the coroner.

A Tragedy of the Sea. LONDON, April 23.—The British bark Firth of Solway, bound for Dundee, was sunk yesterday morning by collision with the British steamer Marsden, of Greenock, near Kish lightship, on the east coast of Ireland. The bark went down almost immediately, and the captain's wife and child and thirteen of the crew were drowned. The captain and eight sailors were saved. The Marsden's bows were badly stove.

CONGRESSMEN COME TO BLOWS.

They Sling Ink Stands at Each Other With Effect.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—Congressman Money, Democrat of Mississippi, Senator-elect from that State, and Congressman Hall, Democrat of Missouri, had a lively personal encounter in the Committee on Naval Affairs today, and as the result Mr. Money received a severe cut in the back of his head from an ink stand thrown by Mr. Hall, and the latter just escaped being struck by another ink stand thrown at him by Mr. Money. The fracas occurred about noon in the committee room of the Naval Affairs Committee, of which both gentlemen are members.

Mr. Hall is a man of large stature, standing six feet two and weighing 250 pounds. Mr. Money is also tall, but rather slight and no match for his opponent physically. Mr. Money was hurriedly taken into a committee room on the floor below, while Mr. Hall walked calmly along the corridor to the hall of the House.

The blood from Mr. Money's wound dropped on the tessellated marble floor. A great crowd immediately congregated and there was much excitement. The details of the cause of the encounter were hard to obtain. Mr. Hall when seen immediately after the fight said he did not desire to make a statement. "It was a personal matter," said he, and I do not desire to say anything. I do not suppose Mr. Money either will care to make a statement.

Mr. Money was taken to the room of the Committee on Claims, where his wounds were dressed by a physician. There were two cuts, one just back of the ear, about an inch long, and the other further down the neck, both made probably by the points of the ink well. Mr. Money, like his adversary, said he did not desire to make a statement. A close friend of Mr. Money's, however, who was an eye witness of the occurrence, gave the following version of the difficulty: "Mr. Money was in the room," said this gentleman, "looking over his mail, when Mr. Hall entered and began discussing a bill before the committee relating to the rank of naval surgeons. Mr. Money took part in the discussion and, though his voice was pitched as usual in a conversational tone, he was in no wise excited. Mr. Money made a statement that the surgeons were after both rank and command. 'No,' he added smilingly, 'I take that back, not command, but rank.' 'Any man who says that,' said Mr. Hall angrily, 'says what is not true.' 'You are a liar,' retorted Mr. Money partly rising from his chair. Mr. Money rose to his feet and Mr. Hall grasped an ink well and hurled it at him. The blow behind the ear staggered him. Mr. Hall did not hit him with his fist. Mr. Money, also, clutched an ink well and let it drive at Mr. Hall's head, but the Missouriian dodged and the missile flew harmlessly and struck the wall opposite. Had it struck Mr. Hall, I believe it would have brained him. The two men then made for each other. Both of them made motions as if to draw their weapons. Mr. Wilso, of New York, a member of the Naval Committee, who was present with the messenger and clerk, then rushed between the men and prevented further trouble.

Mr. Money was conveyed to his hotel by friends. Mr. Hall remained at the Capitol. He expressed regret for what occurred, but still declined to make a statement.

Danger of Electric Wires. PHILADELPHIA, April 21.—Linford L. Biles, 65 years of age, was killed, and his son, Geo. E. Biles, 31 years of age, was badly injured this morning by coming in contact with a wire that was crossed with an electric light trolley car current. The father and son went on the roof of their home, No. 1031 Tasker street, about 2.30 o'clock to investigate a fire, a telegraph wire having ignited the woodwork. The parent seized the wire and the current was so heavy that that he was electrocuted. Geo. E. Biles endeavored to extricate the wire from his father's grasp, and he, too, was seriously hurt. The son was removed to St. Agnes Hospital, where he lay unconscious for five hours. He will probably recover. Linford L. Biles was foreman of the jury that convicted H. H. Holman of murder in the first degree on the charge of killing Benj. P. Pietzel. He was a well known citizen and for a number of years had been paymaster at the Atlantic Oil Works.

Killed For Love. RICHMOND, Texas, April 13.—Albert Somerville in a fit of jealous rage shot and almost instantly killed Emma Somerville, a daughter of Judge H. L. Somerville, postmaster of this city, this morning, and then attempted suicide, but made only a slight wound. Miss Somerville was a popular and highly esteemed young lady. The young man came here recently from Alabama, where his parents reside. He is a nephew of Judge Somerville and was visiting at his uncle's house at the time. The tragedy occurred in the street just in front of the Somerville home. Young Somerville was in love with the young lady, but on account of relationship between the young people the parents refused to consent to their marriage. Somerville is now in jail.

Three Children Injured. ATLANTA, Ga., April 18.—Three children named Turner, whose home is on Gartrell street, were painfully injured today by the explosion of a jar of lime. In the morning while at play they poured water into a glass jar containing a gallon of fresh lime. They had the jar in their playhouse. Three hours later the jar exploded and seriously wounded all three of the children, aged 3, 6 and 8. The youngest, a girl, will probably die, her skull having been crushed by a piece of glass. Oscar Turner, their father, is a pressman on The Constitution.

Diaz at Liberty. HABANA, April 23.—The Rev. Albert Diaz, the American Baptist missionary and his brother, Alfred, who were arrested last week have been set at liberty, but have been ordered to leave the country before the expiration of six days from the time of their release. Messrs. O'Leary and Dawley, delegates respectively of the Philadelphia Bulletin and Harper's Weekly of New York, who were arrested at Matanzas have been released on bail, which was furnished by the American vice consul.

HOME RULE FOR CUBA.

SPAIN TO PUT IT IN OPERATION IN FOUR WEEKS.

Will Terminate Irritation Between Spain and This Country—The Laws Adopted in 1895—Prospect of the Revolution Coming to an End.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The Spanish government will put into execution a comprehensive system of home rule or autonomy, for the Island of Cuba.

There is good reason to believe that the State Department has received from Madrid information to this effect. In any event, it is beyond question that this important move is assured. It promises to bring to a sudden termination the irritation and friction which has existed for many months between the United States and Spain, and to replace this feeling with one of a friendly and amicable nature.

The law which will be put into effect was signed by the Queen Regent of Spain, March 15, 1895, and will be followed by rules and regulations developing the present scheme of reforms. By the time the Queen Regent of Spain makes her address to the Spanish Cortes, which assembles in one month, the law will be promulgated through Cuba and the long expected policy of home rule for Cuba will be realized.

The law is very elaborate in its provisions. The element of home rule is secured by the establishment of two local bodies, drawn largely, if not entirely, from residents of Cuba. One of these is to be known as the provincial chamber of deputies and the other as the council of administration. The latter has appellate jurisdiction over the former. Large powers are granted to the council of administration in the internal management of public affairs, but the Governor General will continue as the supreme representative of Spain on the island and will have direct charge of military, naval and international questions. The details of the reform project were published at the time of their adoption by the Spanish Cortes in 1895.

Bad Blood in Oklahoma. GUTHRIE, Ok., April 24.—R. T. Anderson, aged 19, who had lately arrived in Greer county from Bellevue, Ill., was employed by Horatio Buckley to work on a farm, but was discharged because of his poor work. He went to town, bought a rifle and returning to Buckley's house in the evening, attempted to shoot him. Mrs. Buckley blew out the light and the two men battled in the dark. Buckley being fatally wounded with a ball from Anderson's rifle. Anderson fled and hid in a hole in a creek bank and when a posse attempted to capture him, he shot the leader, Deputy Sheriff Ferris, and kept the others at bay four hours, surrendering only when his ammunition gave out. There were threats of lynching, but he is now safe in the hold county jail at Mangum, though held wholly without authority, as the recent decision of the supreme court left Greer county without officers to enforce the Oklahoma laws which now govern the county.

The Ohio Tornado. TOLEDO, Ohio, April 21.—Reports this afternoon from Sandusky County show that the tornado was more disastrous than it was at first said to be. A Mrs. Schorn and her child were found this morning after having lain out all night, wet to the skin. They were blown out of a buggy and will die. Wilson Brand, of Booktown, and Hiram Hendricks, of Muscalong, are two other fatally hurt. Hendricks had both arms and legs broken. Edward Logue, of Booktown, was crushed under a falling barn. The loss to property is estimated at \$200,000. The fruit growers along the bay shore and the lake islands will suffer a heavy loss by reason of the hail utterly ruining a large portion of the fruit crop. The hail cut the blossoms from the trees, and in some cases whole fruit farms were uprooted. No disasters are reported from the lakes, although the wind reached a high velocity. At the small village of Booktown not a building was left standing.

Goldbugs Beginning to Kick. DENVER, Colo., April 18.—Frank P. Arbuclle, chairman of the Democratic State Central committee, who has just returned from Arizona, says the State convention, held on Wednesday was not regular and threatens to call another convention. Mr. Arbuclle says that Olney Newell, who issued the call for the convention, April 15, had no authority to do so, as he resigned as secretary of the State committee last September. Should the chairman call another convention, the supporters of the administration will endeavor to elect delegates to the national convention who will not bolt, even if a gold standard platform be adopted.

Alabama All Right. MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 23.—The Democratic State convention today adopted a platform for the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 and instructed the delegates to Chicago to vote as a unit on that and other questions. President Cleveland was endorsed in everything except finance and the administration of Governor Oates was also endorsed.

Enthused Over Tillman. OWENSBORO, Ky., April 23.—Hon. B. R. Tillman, Senator from South Carolina, spoke to five thousand people here this afternoon. The tabernacle was packed. He was introduced by ex-Congressman Ellis. Senator Tillman's speech caused much enthusiasm and especially in his denunciation of the financial policy of Cleveland and Carlisle.

A Clash of Authorities. ASTORIA, Ore., April 24.—United States troops last evening drove the Washington militia from Sand Island, where they had been encamped, protecting the fish traps from the fishermen. Sand Island is a government reservation and the occupation by the Washington militia was called to the attention of the federal authorities.

Five Children Suffocated. SPRINGFIELD, Mass., April 17.—In the tenement house fire at Turner's Falls, Mass., 5 o'clock this morning five children were suffocated. The property loss was small.

Edison calls his newest invention the "fluoroscope," by means of which in conjunction with a Crooke's tube the whole interior anatomy of the human body may be made visible to the eye.