

The Press and Banner.

BY HUGH WILSON.

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

MET IN ANNUAL SESSION ON TUESDAY OF LAST WEEK.

The Election of Officers in the House and Senate the Most Important Work Done on the First Day of the Session.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 13.—The General Assembly of South Carolina convened in annual session yesterday at 12 o'clock.

THE PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE.

Promptly at 12 o'clock Clerk Gray, clad in his official robes, stepped up to the speaker's desk and called the house to order. When the house had been called to order Mr. B. B. McWhite moved Mr. C. W. Harris for temporary chairman. Mr. Harris thanked the house for the honor conferred upon him, and proceeded to say that he would leave all matters relating to the affairs of the State for the permanent officers.

The roll was called by counties and all the members were sworn in, taking the oath in front of the speaker's stand, the temporary speaker administering the oath. The members all took the oath with hands raised and completed the act by kissing a cheap, cloth-bound Bible, which was small and easy to handle. Each member, after taking the oath, went up on the stand and signed the roll. Considering the fact that it was the first day of the session, the number of absentees was very small.

Hon. Frank B. Gary was unanimously re-elected Speaker. On motion of Mr. Winkler a committee consisting of Messrs. Winkler, Rainsford and Bacot was appointed to wait on Mr. Gary and inform him of his election. This committee soon returned with him. Mr. Gary on reaching the stand was sworn in, the members standing meanwhile. On taking the chair, being presented by Mr. Harris, he proceeded to thank the members. He said he esteemed it a high honor to preside over a legislative body in South Carolina. When he thought of those who had presided over the house in the past he felt that the members had made a mistake in electing him. However, he would know no party or faction. He would be the speaker of the house of representatives and with their co-operation he hoped that the business of the house would not suffer. He again thanked them for the high honor paid him.

The election of a clerk was then entered into. Mr. Sturkie in pleasing terms nominated Gen. J. Walter Gray of Greenville. It was seconded by Mr. Magill.

Mr. Haselden rose to nominate a man whose qualifications could not be challenged—Mr. Jesse T. Gantt.

Mr. Blythe then in appropriate language nominated Mr. J. Tom Austin, who had served three terms in the house, one in the senate and was a member of the Constitutional convention.

Messrs. Crum, Haselden and DeLoach were appointed as tellers. The vote resulted as follows:

Gantt.....	48
Gray.....	59
Austin.....	4

Total vote cast.....111
Gen. Gray was then declared elected and sworn in.

Mr. Burns nominated Mr. N. H. Stansell as sergeant at arms. Mr. Caughman nominated Mr. S. G. Holley of Saluda. Mr. McG. Simpkins seconded the nomination in a speech highly eulogistic of Mr. Holley, who is a Confederate veteran. Mr. Crum then seconded the nomination of Mr. Stansell, referring to his excellent record.

Messrs. Rainsford, Childs and Burns were the tellers. The vote resulted: Holley 25, Stansell 87; total vote cast 112. Mr. Stansell was declared elected and sworn in.

For reading clerk Mr. Crum nominated the "man with a voice that few men had." Mr. J. S. Withers, the former reading clerk. Messrs. Graham, Townsend and Perritt were appointed tellers. Mr. Withers received 108 votes, all those cast, and was sworn in.

A resolution offered by Mr. Harris was adopted, that a committee be sent to notify Governor Evans that this body was ready to receive any communication he might have to make. Messrs. Harris, Sturkie and Pollock were appointed. The committee at once retired.

Mr. Goodwin moved that the rules of the old house be adopted for this house.

Mr. Meares wanted rule 81 excepted as this was the only legislative body that was accustomed to seating of members by delegations. He thought that it was for the best interests of legislation that the members be seated separately. It would prevent sectionalism.

Mr. Goodwin differed with Mr. Meares. He said it was the best advantage of the house to have the members seated by delegations.

Mr. Meares' amendment was killed and the old rules were adopted, 300 copies of the rules being ordered printed.

Mr. Sturkie offered a resolution requiring all members to stand outside the rail while the seats were being drawn. This was adopted.

The house, on motion of Mr. Kinard, under the new act, proceeded to elect a chaplain. The Rev. J. C. Abney was nominated by Mr. McG. Simpkins; the Rev. R. M. Kinard was nominated by Mr. Skinner. The ballot resulted as follows: Kinard 53, Abney 46. Mr. Kinard was declared elected.

The governor's message came in at this time, and at the suggestion of Mr. Harris, the reading of the message was postponed until the pri. ter could supply sufficient copies to be placed upon the desks of all the members. A synopsis of the message will be found in another column.

The delegations then proceeded to draw for seats. A small boy drew the names of the counties from a hat. Hampton got the first choice and took the seats midway on the right side of the centre aisle. Union, Chesterfield and Spartanburg came next. Union and Chesterfield selected seats on the left side. Clarendon came next. Spartanburg got the front seats on the right side and Lancaster and Abbeville on the left. Messrs. Pollock of Chesterfield and Smith of Hampton got the two best seats in the house.

It required over an hour's time to complete the selections of seats. Florence was the last county to get seats and had to take what were left. R. B. Anderson, the only colored member, got the seat he has occupied for several sessions past.

Speaker Gary was at work last evening on the arrangement of his committees. He expects to announce his appointments at today's session. He says he will give the matter most careful consideration and ascertain the sentiment prevailing among the members as to the personnel of the committees.

At yesterday's session, Mr. Rainsford called attention to the danger from falling skylights and the sergeant at arms was directed to have the matter given proper attention. All but 13 members of the house were present yesterday. Some of the absentees are sick at home.

Speaker Gary appointed the following committees:

Privileges and Elections—D. H. Magill, chairman; S. T. McKeown, R. Y. Lemmon, Ben F. Townsend, C. M. Davis, G. L. Toole, John M. Glenn, D. F. Efrid, Peter Hollis, Jeremiah Misheo, S. McGo, Simpkins, T. T. Westmoreland, J. G. Wolline.

On Medical Affairs—L. K. Sturkie, C. T. Wyche, H. P. Goodwin, R. H. Timmerman, A. J. Spear, J. R. Smith, J. H. Price.

On Judiciary—J. M. Skinner, T. W. Bacot, P. H. Gadsden, C. L. Winkler, H. C. Patton, W. P. Pollock, A. Blythe, H. C. Livingston, George W. Gage, W. H. Thomas, W. H. Stevenson, B. A. Meares.

Ways and Means—C. A. Barry, John P. Thomas, Jr., C. W. Harris, J. C. Mehrens, C. R. D. Burns, Thomas H. Rainsford, J. H. Wilson, H. P. Goodwin, W. H. Yeldell, Julian Mitchell, T. A. Graham, H. H. Crum, J. W. Witherspoon, On the Penitentiary—S. T. McKeown, J. M. Hyatt, L. A. Moore, J. M. Sullivan, L. H. Crum.

On Military—H. H. Crum, M. W. Perry, H. E. Townsend, W. S. Smith, W. H. Thomas, A. F. H. Dukes, J. D. Haselden, D. H. Magill, George B. Lester.

On Claims—C. T. Wyche, R. L. Caughman, Peter Hollis, D. B. Henderson, G. L. Toole, E. L. Asbill, T. E. Johnson, L. N. Gasque, W. R. Anderson.

Roads, Bridges and Ferries—Joshua Ashley, R. L. Caughman, J. D. Haselden, C. R. D. Burns, A. W. Cushman, J. S. Graham, D. M. Miles, J. O. Wingo, O. P. Goodwin.

On Agriculture—J. A. Harvey, H. M. Lofton, J. W. Ashley, Peter Hollis, D. M. Bethune, J. D. Kinard, D. F. Efrid, R. B. Robinson, N. M. Seabrook.

Corporations—C. W. Harris, Jeremiah Misheo, E. L. Asbill, W. H. DeLoach, D. A. McCullough, W. Iderton, T. E. Johnson, H. J. Kinard, W. A. All.

On Federal Relations—T. W. Bacot, C. L. Winkler, R. B. Anderson, A. J. Spear, Joseph Bailey, J. F. Banks, A. K. Sanders, B. B. McWhite, T. I. Rodgers.

On Railroads—W. P. Pollock, R. C. Barkeley, J. M. Skinner, R. A. Lancaster, H. J. Kinard, J. F. McLaurin, E. E. Verner, M. W. Phillips, P. H. Gadsden, J. D. Haselden.

On Education—John P. Thomas, A. J. A. Perritt, A. Blythe, George W. Gage, D. B. Henderson, G. L. Toole, Cowper Patton, T. A. Graham, J. D. Haselden.

On Internal Improvements—M. W. Phillips, D. M. Miles, J. H. Price, C. J. Price, J. S. Reynolds, M. W. Pratt, S. W. Russell, R. Y. Lemmon, A. B. Layton, W. Russell, R. Y. Lemmon, A. B. Layton.

On State House and Grounds—R. M. Lofton, J. M. Humphrey, George W. Fairley, J. W. Smith, W. S. Smith, A. S. Bedon, W. C. Vincen, W. A. All, B. B. McWhite.

On Public Buildings—M. W. Phillips, J. M. Hott, J. H. Wilson, W. A. Nettles, T. H. Owen, J. E. Miller, W. H. Kennedy, W. H. Edwards, E. M. Seabrook.

On Accounts—L. A. Moore, L. A. Carson, W. G. Austell, L. K. Armstrong, C. W. Whisonant, J. A. M. Caraway, William Mauldin, A. F. H. Dukes.

On Rules—H. C. Patton, W. P. Pollock, T. W. Bacot, C. L. Winkler, H. J. Kinard.

On Enrolled Acts—T. A. Graham, W. S. Smith, E. L. Asbill, Arthur Kibler, R. H. Timmerman, T. Y. Williams, D. B. Henderson.

On the Legislative Library—M. W. Pratt, C. J. Price, A. J. A. Perritt, J. M. Glenn, C. A. Barry, E. J. Limehouse, C. J. McDaniell.

On Engrossed Bills—Jeremiah Misheo, L. K. Armstrong, J. S. Graham, A. B. Layton, Joel H. Miller, Ross Fox, T. B. Owen.

On Public Printing—J. D. Kinard, A. J. A. Perritt, W. I. Iderton, C. J. Colcock, R. Y. Lemmon, A. Blythe, J. S. Reynolds.

On Lunatic Asylum—J. D. Haselden, L. K. Sturkie, C. A. Barry William Iderton, H. J. Kinard, R. H. Timmerman, L. D. Childs.

On Officers and Officers—B. L. Caughman, N. W. Phillips, George W. Davis, R. B. Robinson, B. B. McWhite, T. T. Westmoreland, J. M. Price.

On Commerce and Manufactures—R. C. Barkeley, R. Y. Lemmon, George W. Fairley, E. J. Limehouse, W. A. All, J. A. McCullough, A. W. Cushman, S. W. Russell, D. M. Miles.

On Public Schools—H. P. Goodwin, William Iderton, A. J. A. Perritt, S. W. Smith, Arthur Kibler, L. A. Carson, T. I. Rodgers, C. L. Winkler, C. J. Colcock.

On Mines and Mining—J. C. Mehrens, J. H. Wilson, C. J. Price, C. W. Whisonant, A. F. H. Dukes, S. H. Epps, T. Y. Williams, Knox Livingston, W. G. Austell.

THE PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

Promptly at noon Lieutenant Governor Timmerman called the State senate to order by sharply rapping his gavel. The noise and talk of the senators who were standing about in groups at once subsided and each hastened to find the seat which lot had given him. From the very first the senate settled down to routine work as if it had been in session for some time instead of but a few minutes. The roll call was at once ordered and showed the only absentees to be Senator Dennis of Berkeley and Senator Archer of Spartanburg.

A number of new members were present to whom the oath of office had to be administered. These senators—Henderson of Aiken, Mayfield of Barnwell, Talbird of Beaufort, Gaines of Edgefield, Walker of Georgetown, Dean of Greenville, Scarborough of Horry, Wallace of Laurens, Griffith of Lexington, Brown of Marion, Mowens of Newberry, Comer of Orangeburg, Alexander of Oconee, Sudath of Saluda, and Love of York, were escorted to the front of the presiding officer's stand and there sworn in.

Dr. Timmerman was dispatching all this routine work as fast as was compatible with the dignity of the body over which he presided, when he suddenly recalled that the proceedings

had not been opened with prayer. He suspended business and announced that the Rev. Mr. Willoughby would make the opening prayer. Mr. Willoughby did so, asking for direction from above and that all work which was done by the senate should be for the glory of God and the good of the people for all ages to come.

Dr. Timmerman here extended a cordial greeting to the senators and then announced that the election of the clerk of the senate was in order. On motion of Mr. Mayfield Gen. R. R. Hemphill was unanimously re-elected to that position, no opposition to him having developed. Senator D. K. Norris of Anderson was elected president of the senate pro tem and Mr. W. H. Steward reading clerk.

A good many candidates appeared in the field for the position of sergeant at arms. Messrs. J. D. Hood of Chester, D. R. Lessee of Williamsburg, J. W. Floyd of Kershaw, W. J. Shelton of Union, R. Jolley of Spartanburg, J. T. Parks of Orangeburg, John F. Folk of Bamberg, and L. E. Parler of Colleton were the aspirants. On the third ballot Mr. J. W. Floyd was declared elected. The Rev. J. H. Willoughby was elected chaplain of the senate.

On motion of Senator McCalla the president appointed a committee of three to wait on Governor Evans and inform him that the senate was ready for business. Senators McCalla, Buist and Pettigrew were appointed on this committee.

Dr. Timmerman announced the following appointments: J. T. Gantt, journal clerk; E. A. Perry, bill clerk; George Anderson and Auld, pages; Jas. T. Parks, postal clerk, Jacob F. Gooding and J. F. Shumbert, doorkeeper and assistant doorkeeper; W. E. Harris, gallery doorkeeper; N. O. Fyles, general committee clerk; N. S. Ashley, Calhoun Butler and H. S. Asher, porters; Jas. Frazier and James Hodges, laborers. He made these appointments after consulting with the newly selected lieutenant governor, Mr. McSweeney, to ascertain if they were satisfactory to him.

The following committees were also announced:

Agriculture—J. H. McDaniell, chairman; J. S. Dubose, A. S. Williams, H. M. Stackhouse, J. T. Douglas, A. C. Sanders, W. B. Love.

Claims and Grievances—Altamont Moses, chairman; E. L. Archer, Geo. S. Mower, G. W. Ragsdale, J. M. Gaines, J. S. Sudath, J. H. Turner.

Contingent Accounts—D. J. Griffith, chairman; A. H. Dean, L. M. Ragin, L. S. Connor, J. T. Hay.

Education—W. A. Brown, chairman; D. S. Henderson, D. K. Norris, W. H. Mauldin, I. H. McCalla, G. L. Buist.

Enrolled Bills—LeGrand Walker, chairman; Jos. Alexander, A. H. Dean, Thos. Talbird, R. B. Scarborough, E. J. Dennis.

Finance—G. L. Buist, chairman; I. H. McCalla, W. B. Love, A. H. Williams, A. C. Sanders, J. S. Dubose, Altamont Moses, H. M. Stackhouse, D. J. Griffith, D. K. Norris.

Charitable Institutions—J. T. Douglas, chairman; J. N. Turner, B. F. Miller, W. B. Love, J. T. Hay, J. B. Sudath, L. S. Connor.

Commerce and Manufactures—F. L. Archer, chairman; A. H. Dean, D. K. Norris, J. E. Pettigrew, LeGrand Walker, J. S. Dubose, J. M. Gaines.

County Officers—A. C. Sanders, chairman; R. B. Scarborough, W. A. Brown, J. S. Dubose, E. L. Archer.

Engrossed Bills—B. F. Miller, chairman; J. T. Hay, A. H. Dean, J. S. Dubose, G. W. Ragsdale.

Federal Relations—H. M. Stackhouse, chairman; W. T. O'Dell, G. L. Buist, J. R. Turner, E. J. Dennis, B. F. Miller.

Immigration—E. J. Dennis, chairman; C. R. Wallace, A. H. Dean, J. S. Dubose, G. W. Ragsdale.

Incorporations—D. S. Henderson, chairman; Geo. S. Mower, A. H. Dean, G. W. Ragsdale, R. B. Scarborough, J. T. Hay.

Judiciary—S. C. Mayfield, chairman; Geo. S. Mower, J. T. Sloan, G. L. Buist, D. S. Henderson, Thos. Talbird, LeGrand Walker, J. T. Hay, R. B. Scarborough.

Medical Affairs—A. H. Williams, chairman; Altamont Moses, A. H. Dean, D. J. Griffith, C. R. Wallace, J. B. Sudath.

Penitentiary—I. H. McCalla, chairman; Altamont Moses, A. H. Dean, D. J. Griffith, C. R. Wallace, J. B. Sudath.

Privileges and Elections—Geo. S. Mower, chairman; I. H. McCalla, J. M. Gaines, D. S. Henderson, G. W. Ragsdale, J. T. Hay.

Public Lands—A. H. Dean, chairman; J. S. Dubose, L. M. Ragin, J. T. Hay, Jos. Alexander.

Retrenchment—Jos. Alexander, chairman; A. H. Dean, G. W. Ragsdale, A. C. Sanders.

Roads, Bridges and Ferries—W. T. O'Dell, chairman; A. H. Williams, A. C. Sanders, B. F. Miller, C. R. Wallace, J. B. Sudath, D. J. Griffith.

Legislative Library—J. T. Hay, chairman; J. E. Pettigrew, L. S. Connor.

Military—W. H. Mauldin, chairman; A. C. Sanders, Altamont Moses, J. T. Sloan, J. H. Turner.

Mines and Mining—J. S. Dubose, chairman; LeGrand Walker, H. M. Stackhouse, A. H. Dean, G. L. Buist, C. R. Wallace, Thos. Talbird.

Printing—J. M. Ragin, chairman; J. H. McDaniell, J. B. Sudath, Jos. Alexander, I. H. McCalla, Altamont Moses, W. A. Brown.

Public Buildings—J. E. Pettigrew, chairman; W. T. O'Dell, J. T. Douglas, H. M. Stackhouse, L. S. Connor.

Railroads and Internal Improvements—J. T. Sloan, chairman; G. L. Buist, J. T. Douglas, H. M. Stackhouse, S. G. Mayfield, A. H. Williams, I. H. McCalla, D. K. Norris, W. M. Mauldin.

Rules—L. S. Connor, chairman; E. J. Dennis, G. L. Buist, A. H. Williams, J. T. Hay, D. K. Norris.

Several bills were introduced and referred. The committee returned after informing Governor Evans that the senate was ready for business and announced that the governor said he would send his message in a few minutes. After waiting for a little time for the message, on motion of Senator Moses the senate adjourned today at 12 o'clock. The governor's message will then be read.

Will Take It.

HIS LAST MESSAGE.

GOV. EVANS' OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION TO THE LEGISLATURE.

Much Space Devoted to the Dispensary Law—Other Matters of Grave Importance to the State.

The following is the annual message of Governor John Gary Evans to the General Assembly:

Gentlemen of the General Assembly: It is the duty of the governor under the Constitution to give you from time to time information of the condition of the State and to recommend such measures for your consideration as he may deem expedient. I shall confine myself in this my last annual message to giving you such information as I have been able to obtain as to the condition of the State, leaving to my successor to make recommendations as to any future legislation or policy.

Two years ago I was elected governor to succeed a leader of a revolution who, to use his own language, was the "worst hated and best loved" man who has ever entered the politics of our State. The policy that I should pursue was already formed by the people and the only issue made was as to the enforcement of the dispensary law—whether it should be aggressive with a view of destroying the illicit traffic in liquor or whether it should be of a milk and cider form as our enemies would have it with the hope of its final repeal. My nomination and election meant the former and I have endeavored to be true to that policy. It would have been an easy matter for me to have placated my enemies and the enemies of the Reform movement by giving ear to the overtures of the whiskey element and their allies in the cities of the State—the daily press. These people who slandered and vilified the framers of the dispensary law have continued their stubborn warfare to an extent that would barely be tolerated by a less conservative people. They have not been content to express their contempt of the law, but have attempted to drag down by lying and slandering every official connected with the administration of the law. Every error in bookkeeping of an inexperienced dispenser has been magnified into an embezzlement. Every arrest of an illicit dealer in liquor by a constable has been characterized as vilest oppression of innocent and law-abiding citizens. If perchance an offender is killed while resisting the officers and carrying on his damnable traffic, it is classed as a murder most foul. These reports are sent out to the world as truths, when as a matter of fact they are brazen falsehoods. It is a disgraceful spectacle that South Carolinians should descend so low as to slander their own government from political malice.

The dispensary law is stronger today than at any time since its enactment and is better enforced as will appear from the statistics later on. This is the most important matter with which you will have to deal, and I would respectfully call your attention to the excellent report of the board of control, with the request that you study it and think well before making any changes in the present system.

THE DISPENSARY AS A BUSINESS.

Up to the time of my induction into office as governor, the dispensary had been in operation about 18 months. The governor was charged, not only with the enforcement of the law, but as business manager in the capacity of chairman of the board of control.

The business had continually increased until it reached over \$1,000,000 annually. Realizing that as a business it was tentative and that it had not been placed upon what could truly be called a business plane and that it was burdened with crudities of which it must be divested before it could reach the expectations of the public as a moral reformation and a business success, my first official act was to give its former management a thorough investigation in order to ascertain its financial status as well as its weak points. I was met by many difficulties, political as well as business. To commence the business the general assembly of 1892 voted an appropriation of \$50,000. For the first 18 months of its existence the dispensary experienced many vicissitudes and when it was placed in my hands I found it still embarrassed and hardly able to stand alone. It had not paid a dollar into the State treasury in net earnings and the \$50,000 appropriation was still unliquidated. The statements of its growth and progress as published from time to time by the former commissioner were unsatisfactory to the public, for the reason that the system of bookkeeping was a Chinese puzzle and no one could tell exactly the true status of the business. This fact gave color to the adverse criticisms of the administration of the law and invited the terrific accusations that were made against those charged with its management. The last statement of these assets and liabilities and profits which the former commissioner made was for the quarter ending January 21, 1895. In that statement, the profits claimed to have accrued to date amounted to \$151,295.51. Bookkeepers of experience could not cipher this out and claims were made that the profits were fictitious. I determined to change the business management and adopt a full and satisfactory system of accounting. An expert bookkeeper was employed and it was ascertained that the profits claimed had not accrued, but that the accrued profit to that date was forty-odd thousand dollars less than the amount. This was simply a mistake in bookkeeping and in crediting to the profit account what had not accrued, but what was expected to have accrued. After a thorough dissection of the accounts it was ascertained that the profits had not reached \$110,000. The entire assets, including cash, merchandise, teams and wagons and personal accounts amounted in round numbers to \$198,000. The liabilities amounted in round numbers to \$86,000. The total assets being subsequently affected to the amount of \$2,000 in a final checking and adjustments of accounts. The liabilities were as follows: To State appropriation, \$50,000; to sundry persons, for liquors \$36,000; total indebtedness \$86,000; cash on hand \$45,548.40 or \$40,451.60 less than amount necessary to liquidate the indebtedness. This is simply a rough statement of the status of the dispensary when I took charge of it. I am happy to state that I turned it over to my successor healthy and in good condition and as sound financially as any business institution of the country. It has been taken out

of politics and placed in the hands of a board of control composed of farmers, bankers and business men of ability, whose reputation for honesty and integrity cannot be impugned. The purchasing power, such a temptation to some men, has been taken from the hands of the commissioner and given to this board. They have exercised it judiciously and in a manner to command the respect of all parties. The duties of the commissioner are now exercised by the chairman of the board and superintendent, and the office of commissioner could be abolished by your body. If this power is ever again placed in the hands of one man, he would at once become an object of vituperation, misrepresentation, abuse and slander of all the enemies of the dispensary and every penny a-liner, without any moral or social responsibility. The experience of the past year should be enough to convince your body of the truth of all that I have said and predicted, and while I am sure that you will be advised and importuned to change this law and return to the old system, you will find by investigation that such propositions come from lean and hungry politicians with itching palms. You will be told that the operations of the present board are a failure. Judge them by their acts and results and not by hearsay. The subjoined comparative statement of sales to county dispensers has been furnished me by the bookkeeper and is subject to your examination and verification:

The net profit that has accrued to the State for the past year is in round numbers \$200,000. The next amount accrued to the towns and counties for the same period \$122,000, making a total accrued profit to the State, towns and counties \$322,000; adding \$57,652.65 unearned profit on goods in the hands of local dispensers first of January, 1897, swells the total of earned and unearned profits to the State and towns and counties for the past year to the amount of \$379,652.65. The net profit accruing the past administration for 18 months was \$110,348.80. Net profits for 1895, \$133,467.79. Net profits for 1896, \$200,000, making a total net accrued profit to the State to date \$443,816.57. Add to this net accrued profit the outstanding unearned profit, \$57,652.65, makes a total earned and unearned profit to date of \$501,469.22. If to this sum we add the amount of the net accrued profits to the towns and counties for the years 1895 and 1896 of \$228,121.28 we have a grand total of earned and unearned profits to State, towns and counties to date of \$729,600.50. The amount that has been actually paid to the State, county and town treasurers from the net earnings from the State and county dispensaries is as follows:

Paid into the State treasury in 1895.....	\$100,000
Paid into the State treasury in 1896.....	100,000
Total.....	\$200,000
Paid to towns and counties, 1895.....	\$106,131.28
Paid to towns and counties, 1896.....	122,000.00
Total.....	\$228,131.28

Grand total net profits paid in from all sources \$428,131.28. For further particulars of stock on hand, etc., I would respectfully refer you to the report of the State board of control herewith submitted.

It will thus be seen that as a financial business its success can not be denied. To the above estimates the sum of 50,000 per annum, the average cost of maintaining the dispensary constables, should be added.

The enforcement of the dispensary law has been the bane of the whiskey dealer, the terror of the illicit distiller, the pitiful excuse for the opposition of hypocrites and cranks, and the platform of disgruntled politicians catering to local influences, good or bad. It is the duty under the law of all the executive officers of the State, counties and towns to enforce this law, and such officers are compelled to take an oath prescribed by your honorable body to faithfully enforce the law when they assume their official duties. The governor is authorized to employ constables and State detectives, whose especial duty it is to enforce the law. I have employed on an average about 50 constables during my term of office and one State detective, and they have been zealous and faithful in their efforts to suppress the illicit traffic, and I am satisfied—and I am sure the people of the State are—at the results obtained during the past year 55 regular commissioned constables, including the two chief State constables, have been regularly employed. The State is divided into two divisions known as the "upper" and the "lower." The upper division is in charge of Chief Pant and the lower in charge of Chief Holley. The salaries and expenses, including one detective and the clerk in my office, amounted to \$47,726.01.

Thirty-one constables are assigned to the upper and 24 to the lower division. The upper division has been much harder to handle by reason of the proximity of North Carolina and the mountain distilleries. The amount of whiskey and brandy seized in the upper division for the past year 3,245 gallons, 90 gallons of beer, 8,976 gallons of cider and beer in bottles, 12 vehicles and 16 head of mules and horses, and 10 illicit distilleries were destroyed. In the lower division there were seized and confiscated 6,090 gallons of whiskey, wine and brandy, 39 barrels of beer, 2,255 gallons of beer and cider in kegs, three vehicles and four head of mules and horses and one illicit distillery was destroyed. The resistance to the law in the upper part of the counties adjoining the North Carolina line and in the county of Charleston has been most stubborn. In the remaining counties of the State a healthy condition exists and the citizens are almost unanimous in support of the law, and I am glad to report that the law is being better enforced throughout the State at large, as is known by the sales of the dispensaries and the number of convictions of illicit dealers in the State and municipal courts. The violations reported to my office show a large decrease and the daily reports of the constables show a better state of feeling throughout the State at large. In the counties of Oconee, Greenville and Chesterfield difficulties have been had with traders coming from North Carolina. These desperadoes invariably go armed to the teeth with a determination to resist the officers to the extent of losing their lives if necessary. In Oconee a dastardly attempt was made to assassinate the constables almost at the doors of the court house and they narrowly escaped with their lives. The good people of the county

became indignant and an honest attempt has been made to bring these offenders to justice. In two instances the constables have been compelled to shoot down these desperadoes, and although fully justified and acquitted by the courts of the land of any wrong, they have been handed down by the newspapers opposed to this law and branded as common murderers. The only way to deal with such offenders is to let them know that the law will be enforced even if it be necessary to take their lives.

We have been greatly embarrassed by the decision of the United States court which allows the importation of whiskey for "personal" use. The matter is now before the United States supreme court, and if our position is sustained there will be little trouble in putting an end to the illicit traffic. One of the best evidences of the decrease in the illicit traffic is the decrease in the number of licenses issued by the United States Internal Revenue department. For the year ending June 21, 1896, there were issued to parties outside of dispensaries 315 licenses and one wholesale license included. Of these 190 were taken out in the city of Charleston. For the same period ending June 31, 1895, 720 licenses were taken out. Of this number 157 were taken out in the city of Charleston, showing a decrease of 405 in the State and an increase of 33 in the city of Charleston. For the year ending June 20, 1897, there have been issued so far to illicit dealers 173 licenses, of which 125 were taken out for Charleston, among them four wholesale licenses to dealers in that city. For the same period the previous year there are 299 licenses to illicit dealers, 157 of which were taken out in the city of Charleston. It will thus be seen that for the revenue year ending June 30, 1896, the State at large showed a decrease over 56 per cent, while the city of Charleston showed an increase of over 20 per cent. Since the first of June, 1896, the State at large shows a decrease of over 42 per cent, while the city of Charleston for the same period, under the metropolitan police, shows a decrease of over 20 per cent. It is another significant fact that in the counties of