The Press and Banner

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

Published Every Wednesday by
W. W. Bradley, President. W. R. Bradley, Vice-President

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Subscription Reduced

Beginning with February 1st, 1914, subscription to the Press and Banner will be reduced to $1.50.

GOVERNMENT BIG BUSINESS.

France undertook the construction of a canal across the Isthmus of Panama and failed. The United States government is just completing the work where her sister republic failed.

Within the last ten days Congress has decided to build a railroad to Alaska, a distance of more than 1000 miles. Many people think that this is the entering wedge for government ownership of railroads. No other nation has ever undertaken work of this magnitude or of such a novel nature, with the possible exception of Russia, in building her trans-Siberian railroad.

The United States government has already become a serious competitor of the express companies, and bills are pending in Congress looking to the ownership of telegraph and telephone lines.

What changes of spirit have come over the public mind to make possible these giant undertakings by the government? Twenty years ago, such ideas were ridiculed.

It is doubtful if the government will ever undertake ownership of railroads, though some countries, notably Germany, own their railroads. With competitive rates and government regulation strictly enforced, there does not seem to be any crying necessity for ownership. But ownership of telegraph and telephone lines is another and a much more feasible proposition. The several telegraph companies and the Bell Telephone Company by combination and monopoly have exacted tolls from the public that have almost amounted to robbery. Their dividends have been fabulous, and it seems that they have about killed the goose that has been laying the golden eggs.

It is very hard to regulate the rates of any public utility corporation. For instance, the government has extended the limits and increased the size of packages that will be carried to 100 pounds, all the while reducing rates. Express companies to meet this move have reduced their rates to a competitive basis on packages 100 pounds or less, and have increased their rates on packages weighing over 100 pounds.

If the attitude of the National government toward trusts, public utilities, interlocking corporations and monopolies, seems to be harsh, justification of its course is not far to seek.

For fifty years trust and monopoly have had uninterrupted sway, and the pendulum must swing back. Heads of corporations recognize this fact, and when President Wilson in a recent message made it plain that rigid anti-trust legislation would be passed by Congress, or such legislation as would hold the trusts to the plane of legitimate business, his words were commended by nine-tenths of the daily papers, by a majority of the standpat Republicans in Congress and by the heads of practically all the larger corporations of the country.

If Congress and Mr. Wilson will perform as well as they have spoken, in firmness, and yet considering well business interests, they will bring about a new era in business, and there is no good reason why that era may not be characterized by prosperity.

MEXICO'S NEXT PRESIDENT

In studying conditions in troubled Mexico, two facts stand out boldly: That Huerta's usurpation is rapidly drawing to a close and that Francisco Villa is the real man of the hour amongst the revolutionists.

If in the condition of anarchy prevailing in Mexico anything may be predicted with reasonable certainty, it is that Villa, the Bandit Chief, now the head of a conquering army, will be named as president under new conditions. A few facts about this remarkable man may prove of interest to the readers of The Press and Banner.

When Villa was a boy, a Mexican soldier insulted his sister, and Villa shot him, mounted his horse and escaped to the mountains. There he joined a lot of Mexican bandits and soon became their chief. He took part in the uprising headed by Madero, and became one of Madero's staff officers. When Madero was deposed, Villa was thrown in prison, afterward escaping to a border town in Texas. He had been a terror in Mexico as a bandit, and as an officer in Madero's army he was even more terrible. It is said of him, however, that he did not ply his trade purely for selfish purposes, and where he took from the rich he gave to the poor.

When the present revolution was in its incipiency Villa was living quietly in Texas. He informed his acquaintances there that he was going to Mexico, raise an army and avenge the death of his former chief, ex-President Madero. This has been only a few months ago.

Today he is at the head of 15,000 revolutionists, well drilled, well equipped and thoroughly disciplined. He has carried victory before him in all northern Mexico and now he is invading the South.

In northern Mexico where his word is law, he has shown marked statesmanship as well as generalship. Having seized all manufacturing plants, railroads and other public utilities, he has set them in operation, paying the operatives wages and reserving the profits as war revenue. He has seized the mines of that section which are rich in gold and silver. He has established a bank with nothing but the banking house and empty vault to start with. The mines are worked under guard, the laborers paid and the profits deposited in his bank as a basis of circulation. Before establishing his bank he kept a safe in which the profits of public works were deposited, and from this he drew as he needed funds. He kept no books, but such fear is he held in that it is said there was little or no danger of any of the funds being taken by his subordinates.

While his men worship him, they fear him even more. He will bear any hardship with them or for them, so long as they are straight and loyal, but they know they will be shot without mercy if they are caught in any treachery or even in a grave breach of discipline. He has the reputation of keeping his word good or bad. On one occasion while he was a bandit in the mountains of Mexico, a police commissioner said that he would capture him within the month. Villa sent him word that he would kill him within a week. He rode into the city, met the police commissioner in the streets and shot him to death as he had threatened.

It has been stated a number of times that Villa was totally illiterate. This is not true. He reads and writes fairly well. He says he got most of his education while in prison, feeling the urgent necessity therefor, and he has studied ever since leaving prison. He does not hesitate to sit down and write his name just to show that he can do it.

Villa says he does not want the presidency. Mark Anthony made a similar declaration, and Caesar thrice refused the crown. Villa speaks of Carranza as his chief, but it is because he knows it would not be wise to have divisions in the rebel camp at this time. He is the real head of the revolution and he knows it. His is the iron hand that will surely succeed to the presidency.

Rev. Halford Goes to Calhoun Falls.

Walterboro Press and Standard.

Rev. B. F. Halford, a lifetime resident of Colleton County and a man who has done much for the cause of Christ in the county, left Saturday for his new home in Calhoun Falls. He has accepted a call as pastor of the Baptist Church there, one of the largest churches in the county. Mr. Halford leaves many friends in Colleton County who will regret that the Lord has called him to other fields. As a minister, Mr. Halford was conscientious and energetic and the work has prospered wherever he has been in charge.

Before entering the ministry Mr. Halford was eminently successful in business owning and operating a large hardware establishment at the time when he felt himself called to the ministry. At first he continued his business while preaching, but later, feeling that he could not divide his time, he closed his business and began in earnest to prepare himself for the ministry. He took the English Ministerial Course at Iowa Christian College, having the degree of B. L. conferred upon him. He also attended for awhile the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville where he took the pastor's course. He has the distinction of having been the first blue-seal graduate pastor in the state in teacher training, thus fitting himself for his great work.

Mr. Halford has filled pastorates in the Colleton, Savannah River, Charleston and Orangeburg Associations with credit to himself and honor to his Master. Before leaving for Calhoun Falls on the third Sunday he visited his former fields where he was well received.

The people of Colleton, while regretting to part with Mr. Halford, yet wish for him much success in his new scene of activity, and the prayers of all his former church members will be with him there.

Daughters of the Revolution.

The Andrew Hamilton Chapter D. A. R., will meet this (Wednesday) afternoon. Feb. 4th, with Mrs. May Hill at the residence of Mrs. C. A. Haigler.

Mrs. G. E. Calvert,
Cor. Sec'y.

FOR IMPROVEMENT WORK OF SCHOOLS

Leader of the State Association Appeared Before Senators Advocating Measures.

Having appeared before the senate finance committee in support of a bill providing for the establishment of the office of field agent of the state school improvement association, which carries an appropriation of $1,500, Miss May Eva Hite, president of the association returned to her home at Aiken Wednesday afternoon. Shortly before her departure she expressed herself as being well pleased with the outlook for success in this effort. This bill was introduced in the house by Reresentative Youmans of Columbia.

Discussing the proposed office and the attached duties, she stated that the work of the state school improvement association was greatly handicapped by lack of funds, and that an official with full powers and the support of an appropriation for the continuance of the work was essential to the best results.

Miss Hite referred to the fact that the school improvement association's operations touched only schools in the rural districts and in municipalies of less than 400 population, which she emphasized at her appearance before the senate committee, as the strongest point in her argument. "That point converted a number of legislators with whom I discussed this matter as they were committed to exert all their energies to the betterment of the rural schools," she said.

She declared that in 1912 only 105 schools entered the contests for monetary prizes offered by the association These schools were in 26 counties and completed improvements during the year valued at $170,000. During 1913, a total of 147 schools in 37 counties entered the contests and made improvements valued at $207,000.

Her term of office as president of the association expires in March.

BANKS FOR FARMERS

Administration Bill in House and Senate.—"City Business" To Be Prohibited.

Washington, Jan. 31.—Administration rural credits bills were introduced in the senate and house today. Senator Fletcher introduced the senate measure, and Representative Moss the house bill. Both were members of the commission which went abroad to study rural credits.

The bills were for long term loans. Short term bills will be presented later. The bills would establish a bureau of farm land banks in the treasury department. Provision will be made for the organization of such institutions in the various states under federal inspection. Land banks might be organized by any group of state farmers. The banks will have power to issue bonds, to raise funds and will be strictly prohibited from doing "city business."

Loans to farmers might not exceed fifty percent of the value of the improved land, nor extend more than thirty-five years. The foundation of liability, will be double liability, the same as required on national banks and would be necessary before ladn banks could do business.

The amount of long term business could not exceed fifteen times the amount of paid share capital and surplus. The banks could receive and pay interest on deposits not exceeding fifty per cent. of capital and surplus.

$71,000 Robbery.

Although details have not been given out a package addressed to a local bank containing $71,000 in U. S. treasury notes was taken and a package of magazines substituted. The substitution was not found out till the package reached the bank when the cashier found the bundle of "Laff" magazines. He started to read some of the stuff and became so interested that he agreed with the bank directors to make up the loss if they would place him on the subscription list of "Laff" for life. In order to get you in a good humor and help you forget even your big troubles, domestic or financial, we will agree to send you "Laff" for one year at the ridiculously low price of 50 cents.

This National Magazine of Fun is making greater strides than any other magazine before the American public today. It is a magazine that will keep the whole family in a good humor. The staff of Laff! contains artists, caricaturists, and writers who rank among the best in the country. It is highly illustrated and printed in colors. It will keep the whole family cheerful the year 'round. You can afford to spend 50c a year to do this. Send this clipping and FIFTY CENTS today to the Publishers of Laff! Dayton, Ohio, for one year's subscription. The regular price is $1.00 and we are making this SPECIAL OFFER to get acquainted.

State of South Carolina,

County of Greenville,
Court of Common Pleas.

T. P. Baskins, Plaintiff, against Robt. Hunter and The National Bank of Abbeville, Defendants—Summons for Relief.

You are hereby summoned and required to answer the Complaint in this action which was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court of Common Pleas for Abbeville County, South Carolina on the day of January, A.D. 1914, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said Complaint on the subscribers at their office in the Masonic Temple Building, Greenville, South Carolina, within twenty days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of said service; and if you fail to answer to the Complaint within the time aforesaid the plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated January 29, A. D. 1914.

Ansel & Harris,
Plaintiff's Attorneys.

To the non-resident defendant, Robert Hunter:

Take notice that the Complaint in the above entitled cause was filed in the office of the Clerk of Court of Common Pleas for Abbeville County, South Carolina, on the day of January, A. D. 1914.

Ansel & Harris,
Plaintiff's Attorneys.