# OCALA EVENING STAR

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## LEE DOES NOT LIKE

### The Proposed Reunion of Blue and Gray, in Washington City Next Year

Savannah, Jan. 15.—General Stephen D. Lee, commander in chief of the United Confederate Veterans, who was here yesterday, declared he is opposed to the proposed reunion of the "Blue and Gray" at Washington in 1909.

"Such re-union," he said, "will bring veterans together on both sides who might be imprudent enough in bearing and language to give offense and bring bitterness where there now are good feelings. We should let well enough alone."

He also is opposed to the national government pensioning Confederate veterans.

### JAMES R. RANDALL

#### Death of the Author of a Famous Southern Song

Augusta, Ga., Jan. 15.—James Rider Randall died here yesterday afternoon after an illness lasting several days. He contracted a severe cold several days ago which developed into congestion of the lungs. He was found unconscious in his room and never rallied. He was born in Baltimore in 1843 and was probably the most famous war poet. Among his productions was "Maryland, My Maryland." He graduated from Georgetown University and received his LL. D. from Notre Dame.

### THE PRICE OF PEACE

The terrible itching and smarting, incident to certain skin diseases, is almost instantly allayed by applying Chamberlain's Salve. Price, 25 cents. For sale by all druggists.

## FRENZIED WITH FEAR

### Many Men in the Boyertown Tneater Went Wild With Terror and Trampled on Women and Children

Boyertown, Pa., Jan. 15.—Exploration of the steaming ruins of the Rhodes opera house shortly before noon and a poll of the homes in the little parish of St. John's Lutheran church, indicates that the list of dead resulting from the fire and panic of Monday night, terminating an amateur production given under the auspices of the church, will approximate one hundred and fifty.

Seventy-five bodies have already been identified and the reports indicate that several fatalities will result among the seventy-five persons who were seriously injured. There is hardly a home in this place today but is saddened by the death of one or more relatives or friends. In a number of instances entire famili; were wiped out.

Of the five hundred persons in the opera house when the fire panic broke out, scarcely one hundred escaped death or injury. The rescuers, who are seaching the ruins today, have been greeted with appalling sights, such as have not been equalled in this country by any disaster save the Iroquois theater fire in Chicago. Many of the bodies of victims were entirely consumed. Others were terribly mutilated. A shocking number of children were among the victims.

Further investigation today reveals that the entire disaster was due primarily to the panic and stampede. The first explosion, which resulted from the escape of gas, was inconsequential in itself. The flash and noise of the explosion terrified the children and started the rush for the doors. Then those on the stage became frightened and the kerosene lamps used as footlights were kicked over and the whole stage was fired.

A startling charge that cowardice on the part of some of the few men in the audience was chiefly responsible for the great loss of life, was made today by Reuben W. Stover, who escaped by dropping from a window of the opera house. He is certain that, had a few men not lost their heads and joined in the frenzied dash for safety, a number of people might have been saved.

The chief panic was among those on the lower floor, who heard the explosion and witnessed the terror of the children on the stage, but could not tell the extent of the fire. As soon as the children saw the people rush for the doors, they leaped madly over the fottlights, and this caused men who should have kept cool to break for the doors. The scene within the hal was beyond description. Children shrieked, men cursed, women prayed and moaned.

Stover saw women with babies in their arms, fight madly to get out and then turn and, with their coddling little ones to their bosoms, hurl themselves to the floor to get a small amount of the air remaining in the smoking, white-hot furnace.

The position of many of the bodies found today prove Stover's statement.

### WAREHOUSE IN JACKSONVILLE

#### For Sea Island Cotton of Georgia and Florida

Valdosta Ga., Jan. 15.—Recommendations of the special committee for the formation of a cotton warehousing and holding company was adopted yesterday by the Sea Island Cotton Association of Georgia and Florida in convention here. Headquarters of the company will be located at Jacksonville, Fla. The capital stock will be $25,000, with the right to increase to two million. It was decided also that the Sea Island association shall be incorporated and there will be an organized guarantee company for the purpose of insuring receipts issued by the warehouse and holding company.

A committee was appointed to formulate plans for the new company and confer with the Jacksonville board of trade. New officers elected are the following: President, Harvis Jordan, Atlanta; vice president, J. T. Price, Alachua, Fla.; secretary, F. G. Schell, Lake Butler, Fla.; treasurer, J. Y. Blitch, Valdosta.

A resolution also was adopted admitting women to the association without fees.


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### COAST LINE WON'T CONTEST

#### Lower Rates that are in Consideration by South Carolina Authorities

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 15.—After a conference with Governor Ansel, Attorney General Lyon and the railroad commission, Alexander Hamilton, first vice president and general counsel for the Atlantic Coast Line railway, said his road would voluntarily put on in South Carolina the same passenger rates as will be applied in North Carolina. In North Carolina, he explained, an extra session of the legislature has been called by Governor Glenn to consider the situation and whether the rates are reached by agreement or statute the same rates will be allowed in South Carolina.

It is understood the proposition made to North Carolina called for the same rates as President Finley of the Southern aRilway, stated to Governor Angel a few days ago will be given to South Carolina about April 1.


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