

THE PAGELAND JOURNAL

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Office of Constable Abolished in Chesterfield County.

Special to The Journal.
Columbia, S. C., Feb. 5.—I did not write you last week because the session adjourned Friday afternoon, and I went home. Now we have had several stormy debates over the various bills presented, notable among which was the repealing act concerning the cotton warehouse act, passed by the extra session last fall. The repeal act failed to pass. The hunters license act created a world of debate, both pro & con and has passed to a third reading. The land commission bill which sought to create an office and appoint an officer to go over the state and purchase land for the state, and sell the same to buyers at long time credit, virtually putting the state in the real estate business, failed to pass, but the hottest time yet has been the debate upon the compulsory education bills, 2 in number; after two days of continuous debate and voting we are yet at sea as to the ultimate fate of the measure. I believe that this legislature will pass some compulsory law, but in just what form I cannot say. Personally I am opposed to bills as offered but favor a law which leaves the matter to each school district.

Just now we are in a debate upon the tobacco bill, which does not concern our county very much at present. The old soldiers pension bill will be taken up tonight.

Yes, sir, the Chesterfield delegation introduced a bill to eliminate constables in Chesterfield county, and the same was passed by the senate last Friday, Jan. 29th, which makes it impossible for Senator Laney to have held up the bill after Monday or Tuesday of this week. Now in regard to this bill I will say that it was only intended for an economical measure: saving to our county the sum of \$2000 in salaries alone: we devolve the duties upon the rural policemen of the county both civil and criminal; with the right reserved to the magistrate to appoint a special constable for occasions of emergency and when a rural policeman cannot be had. We are trimming all the county expenses, working hard to save our people all the money we can in the way of taxes, which, with the present crisis upon us, we think is proper and necessary, and we ask the people of our county to uphold our actions for economy. I resent the insinuation or imputation that I originated the bill within myself or that it was originated for selfish motives. I resent that because all the gentlemen who were to be appointed constable are and have been my close personal friends, some of them my close kin by blood and marriage and any report that I favored the bill for selfish motives or for any other purpose, except for good service and economy, is entirely without foundation and is false and only the product of a slanderous and biased brain.

With best wishes I am yours,
J. Clifton Rivers.

"What is the difference," asked the teacher, "between caution and cowardice?"

Johnny, who observed things carefully for so youthful a person, answered:

"Caution is when you're afraid and cowardice is when the other fellow's afraid."—Exchange.

Mr. Odom Writes Concerning Bill

Columbia, S. C. Feb. 5th Mr. Editor:—I notice in your issue of this week some comments on the bill introduced in the House by the Chesterfield Delegation which proposes to abolish the office of magistrate's constable and devolve their duties, both criminal and civil, on the rural policemen.

Mr. Rivers is taxed with being the author of the bill, and he is charged with being actuated by spite. Mr. Rivers is no more responsible than I am, and if there is any odium attached to it, I am willing to bear my share.

I was approached by numerous persons before I came to the opening of the present session, and asked to abolish the office of magistrate's constable and devolve their duties upon the rural policemen of the county. I had not thought of the matter until it was thus called to my attention. The argument was that the rural policemen could do their usual work and that of the constables, and thereby save the county something over \$2000.00 per year. I am fully convinced that the argument is sound, and by a proper distribution, the rural policemen can do the work formerly required of both.

I fail to see why any one should be opposed to the bill who has the financial interest of the county at heart, provided the work can be done properly, and there is no doubt in my mind about the ability of the rural police to take care of this work in a satisfactory manner. It is up to them to do it, and it will be to their interest as well to the interest of the public for them to make good.

The imputation that the bill was born in spite is a reflection upon the delegation that I resent with all the power of my being. I had in mind only the economical aspect of the question, and thought nothing of spiting any one. I feel sure that when this bill is fully understood, those who are unselfishly opposed to it will become its friends. It may be that some of those persons who expected a constable's place may be a trifle sore for a while, but time, the great healer of wounds, will show them their error.

The bill provides that in an emergency, the magistrate is authorized to deputize a special constable. Such emergency would arise when it is impossible to get hold of rural policeman, and the case is urgent.

We are trying to save the county some money during the panicky time now on us and we would be recreant to the trust imposed on us if we did not do all in power to decrease taxes without impairing efficiency.

Be impartial and lets give the law a trial. If it will not work, as we believe it will, it can be changed at the next session of the legislature. Yours truly,
W. P. Odom.

Couldn't Whip the Yankees

Spartanburg, Feb. 4.—Benjamin F. O'Kelley one of the most picturesque characters in upper South Carolina, has passed away at his home three miles east of Walhalla, Oconee County. When a young man entering the Confederate Army he took an oath that he would not have his hair cut until the Confederates had whipped the Yankees. He kept his word and the long white hair reaching his waist which has distinguished him for years, was the evidence of his regard for his oath.

Officers Are Chosen By New Railway Company

Hamlet, Feb. 5.—The Carolina, Atlantic & Western Railway, which has just been completed from Hamlet to Charleston, has announced the new officers as follows:

W. R. Bonsal, President; J. E. Hancock, general manager; G. B. Lewis, general auditor; W. A. Gore, superintendent; J. W. Lvt-ton trainmaster, Hamlet district; J. W. Chapman, trainmaster, Charleston district. H. C. Glabier is the agent at Charleston with B. H. Hartley and D. P. Hartley, commercial agents with headquarters at Charleston.

With the completion of this road from Hamlet through to Charleston the Seaboard Air Line Railway has an entrance into Charleston which this road has been denied for many years. From Hamlet to Charleston is 177 miles and the road has been built of 85-pound rails with a maximum grade of one-half of one per cent and is in every way a modern road. Through freight service was inaugurated on February 1 and through passenger service being caused by the delay in the construction of the connecting tracks into the union station.

In addition to the through line to Charleston the line from McBee and also the line from Sumter by Florence joins the mainline at Poston and there is altogether 312 miles of this road.

Will Consider Change

The following letter explains itself:

Washington, Feb. 4.
Mr. C. M. Tucker
Pageland, S. C.

Sir: With reference to your letter of the 28th ultimo, stating that there is dissatisfaction since the withdrawal of rural route No. 1, Jefferson, South Carolina, from Pageland, and suggesting either that the former method of service on the route be restored or that the carrier on the Jefferson route be held until the receipt of mail from McBee, I beg to state that in view of the excessive duplication and interlacing involved restoration of the former service on the route from Jefferson is deemed inadvisable.

The matter of changing the schedule of the carrier, however, so as to require him to leave after the receipt of mail from McBee, will be given consideration.

Respectfully,
James S. Blaksley
Fourth Assistant Postmaster General.

Cheraw Gives Generously to Belgians

Cheraw, Feb. 4.—The Belgian box left here for Charleston and the relief ship last Friday. The committee had in hand food-stuffs, collected from citizens of Cheraw and vicinity, to the value of \$56; from the Belgian festival, \$8; condensed milk from the Cheraw graded school, \$9.50; clothing collected by Cheraw women, \$52; clothing and dry goods left at the Evans store, \$80.50; from the Presbyterian Sunday school, \$17.70; from the Baptist Sunday school, \$9; from the Episcopal Sunday school, \$10; other cash contributions, \$65. Total for Cheraw \$308.20. The money, \$102.20, was sent by New York draft to B. W. Ravenel, Columbia, yesterday. Besides this, other sections of Chesterfield county sent \$57, making a grand total to date of \$365.20 for this worthy cause.

Negro Pardoned by Blease is Again Convicted

Washington, Feb. 4.—John Van, a negro, who was pardoned last November by ex Gov. Blease of South Carolina, while serving a term of 15 years' imprisonment for manslaughter, has been convicted of robbery before Chief Justice Covington in the criminal division of the District supreme court.

Van's liberty was short lived, as he was apprehended during the Christmas holidays in a 5- and 10-cent store, where he picked a woman's pocket. He secured only an eyeglass case, which he mistook for a purse.

Van denied the charge, and on the witness stand declared he had never been in prison. Mr. Archer, assistant United States attorney, then enquired if he had not been pardoned by the governor of South Carolina last November. The witness then admitted his identity.

P. H. McGowan.

Sowing Wheat in the Spring

Progressive Farmer

A reader says he was unable to sow any wheat up to December 15 and wants to know "about putting some wheat in during February, just a few acres for home requirements. Could I safely count on a moderate crop?"

We can find nothing in the recorded experiences of others, or in our own observations to justify us in advising any one, as far south as Mississippi, to sow wheat in the spring. In fact, much of the wheat sown in the South this winter has been sown too late to give it a fair chance of making the best yields. Much of it was sown the latter half of November or the early days of December, and with the cold weather coming on early, as it has, the yields are not likely to be a fair test of our ability to produce wheat in the Cotton Belt. The same remarks largely apply to the sowing of oats, which as a rule have been put in so late that they are in great danger of winter killing, and even if they live through the winter they are almost certain to make smaller yields than if they had been sown earlier.

We know that oats sown in the spring average a much smaller yield than those sown in the fall, and every consideration points to the conclusion that the same, even to a greater degree, would be true of wheat.

A Bible Puzzle

(Sent to The Ansonian by its Brown Creek correspondent.)

A young man on being asked how many students there were in his Bible class, replied:

"If you multiply the number of times which the Israelites compassed Jericho, then add to the product the number of measures of barley which Boaz gave to Ruth, then divide by the number of Haman's sons, then subtract the number of each kind of clean beast that went into the ark, then multiply the number of men that went to seek Elijah after he was taken up into Heaven, subtract from this Joseph's age at the time he stood before Pharaoh, add the number of stones in David's bag when he killed Goliath, subtract the number of furlong's that Bethany was distance from Jerusalem, then divide by the number of anchors cast out when Paul was shipwrecked, and subtract the number of persons saved in the ark, and this will be the answer."

Use Your Head as Well as Your Hands

Progressive Farmer

As never before, farming is becoming a business where brains count, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the use of labor-saving, time-saving, money-saving farm machinery.

It is a far cry from the cradle and scythe to the modern binder; from the ox wagon and stage coach to the modern automobile; from the "scooter" plow to the riding cultivator; from the limited, uncertain agricultural knowledge of fifty years ago to the splendid store of scientific and technical information that awaits the husbandman who will avail himself of it. It is a long step, indeed, from the tools and the facts to which our fathers and grandfathers had access, to those that we may use; but as we do use these, harnessing our heads and hands to the machinery science and invention have given us, so do we prosper.

This does not mean, though, that all farm machinery will pay on all farms; for it is in the purchase, as well as in the use, of improved implements that real thinking and wise discrimination between which is really needed and which is not must be exercised. Largely what a farmer needs and what will return him real profits is an individual, local problem, and must be gone at as such.

Obviously the machinery needed on a 500 acre wheat farm of the Northwest will be quite different from that required on the ten-acre Florida truck farm; and likewise the implements that may be used profitably on a level, stump-free cotton farm are greatly different from what the average cotton tenant, with his one mule and stumpy, gullied patches, may employ.

To know a real need from an apparent one; to be able to decide what implements are suited to a given set of conditions—these are tests of the judgement, and the farmer who meets these successfully will have taken a most important step toward the use of machinery in place of the more expensive hand labor.

But this is not all: In the operation and intelligent care of farm implements there lies an immense field for the exercise of sound sense and unless he possesses and is willing to exercise these faculties the farmer will still find his implements a liability rather than a dividend-producing asset.

Summing up, there are many many millions of dollars worth of farm machinery needed in the South, it our labor is to be most productive; but we doubt not too; because of a lack of adaptation to local conditions, because of ignorance and carelessness in operating, and because of exposure to weather and a general lack of care, that there also are right now on Southern farms several millions of dollars worth of implements that will never be anything more than a dead loss. Merely buying an improved implement doesn't put the stamp of progress on a man. Unless it be suited to his conditions and unless he knows how to operate and care for it, it may leave upon him and his future financial welfare an entirely different brand.

"Did you tell Blinks I was a fool?"
"No; I thought he knew it."—Exchange.

"How did you know your patient had appendicitis, doctor?"
"I operated on him."—Ex.

Chesterfield County Wants Better Roads.

A delegation of Chesterfield county citizens went to Columbia Friday and asked the Chesterfield legislators to pass a bill permitting any township in the county to vote bonds for road improvement.

The Columbia State gave the following account:

Chesterfield county has come forward with a new type of highway improvement bonds proposition. Essentially the plan consists of legislation whereby any township in the county may bond itself at will for permanent betterment of its roads. LaCoste Evans of Cheraw, whose diligence and zeal in the cause has procured him the sobriquet locally of "The Good Roads Pusher," is promoting the movement, with the cooperation of an organization of his forming called the "365 Day Good Roads League of Chesterfield County."

Delegates from this association were much in evidence in Columbia the other day, when they came down to interview the Chesterfield county legislative delegation in regard to their project. Representatives of all of the eight townships, were on hand. One of these townships, Alligator, has already bonded itself generously for highway improvement. The group comprised the following citizens:

From Cheraw—Lacoste Evans, Isaac Huntley, Thomas Amos.
From Chesterfield Court House—C. L. Huntly, M. J. Hough, J. W. Griggs, W. J. Tiller, H. F. King and R. M. Myers.
From Mt. Croghan—Jule S. McGregor, F. M. Moore, W. A. Rivers.

From Cole Hill—J. E. Williams, the Rev. B. D. Thames.

From Steer Pen—Cordy Winburn, D. S. Matheson.

From Alligator—W. L. McCoy and G. T. Horton.

From Jefferson—M. M. Johnson and W. G. Sutton.

From Old Store—L. L. Parker and J. E. Agerton.
Senator Laney and Representatives Odom and Rivers gave the visitors a careful hearing and the delegates afterward expressed themselves as satisfied with the prospects.

Old Time Prices.

Mr. J. M. Clark was here the other day and he handed us a clipping of prices taken from the "Cheraw Advertiser," published at Cheraw and dated Saturday, October 27, 1866. Comparison with present-day prices may be interesting amusement for some of our readers:

Bacon per lb	24a25
Bagging, per lb	45a47
Beef, per lb	5a10
Butter, per lb	30a35
Candles Adamantine lb	40a60
Candles Tallow, per lb	30a35
Cheese per lb	33 1-2a35
Chickens	20a30
Coffee, per lb	33a35
Corn per bushel	\$1.40
Cotton, in currency, lb	28a23
Cotton in specie, per lb	18a22
Eggs, per doz.	30a33
Fodder, per cwt.	75a\$1.00
Flour, per bbl.	\$15a16
Glass, per hundred	\$8.50a10.50
Lard, per lb	25a30
Mackerel, per bbl	\$20a\$25
Mutton, per lb	8a10
Molasses, per gal	80a85
Nails, per lb	10a12 1/2
Peas, per bushel	\$1.25a1.35
Potatoes, sweet, per bushel	75
Potatoes, Irish, per bushel	\$1.25
Rope, per lb	20a30
Rosin, per bbl	\$1.25a3.00
Salt, per sack	\$4.00
Sugar, per lb	20a25
Tallow, per lb	12 1-2a15
Turpentine per gal	35a45
Twine, per lb	50