

DELEGATION UNITED ON DISTRICT BILL

REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS
STATE HOLD CAUCUS.

Capt. Capers Will Stand Aside—If He Is an Impediment to the Measure's Success—Senator Tillman's Attitude.

Zach McGhee, Washington correspondent of the State, writes that paper under date of 7th:

The South Carolina delegation in the house of representatives held a caucus this morning and agreed upon a bill for a new federal district. Representative Johnston was delegated to draft and introduce a bill for the western federal district, with federal court houses at Greenville, Greenwood, Spartanburg and Rock Hill.

This is practically the same bill that passed the house last year after the amendment putting in Greenwood. Senator Latimer has introduced in the senate the same bill that passed the senate, putting the federal court house at Chester. If both bills pass a conference will have to be held and the situation will be the same as last spring when the house would not yield Rock Hill and the senate would not yield Chester. The South Carolina delegation all were willing to put in both places, but Senator Nelson, chairman of the senate committee, would not consent to that and said that rather than have any child's play the whole business would have to be killed and it was killed.

The seven representatives in the caucus today were harmonious and unanimous. Mr. Finley says they were that way last year and that the South Carolina papers exaggerated the disagreements and dissensions among them.

Senator Latimer when seen tonight said that since he had come up here this time he has had over 20 letters from representative men at Chester, requesting that Chester be put in the bill for a court house. Asked if he had had any letters from Rock Hill, he said: "Not one."

Asked if he had any preference for Chester, he replied: "Yes, or I would not have put Chester in the bill, but of course if Mr. Finley prefers Rock Hill I shall not raise any objections. It will be up to him to decide between Chester and Rock Hill."

Richland county is not included in the new district. Representative Lever was petitioned last summer by the Richland Bar association to have Richland included in the western district and he recommended this to the delegation. They all agreed that to do this would jeopardize the bill, having in it too many federal court houses. All the delegation, however, pledged themselves to support a special bill, which Mr. Lever says he will introduce after the new district bill passes, transferring Richland to it.

Jno. G. Capers may figure in this thing. If he is a candidate for district judge it is likely the bill will be held up in the senate, as Senator Tillman is unalterably opposed to his being made judge, but Mr. Capers talking to me tonight insists that he is not a candidate for judge. "I can't be a candidate for judge of a district that has never been formed," he said. "I want a new district down there, for I believe the people, and especially the bar of the state, deserve to have it, and if I am in the least an impediment to the establishment of the district, either myself personally or my friendship with the president, I will get clear out of the way. It shall not be blocked because of me."

It has been rumored that some one was making a fight, or would make a fight, upon Mr. Capers's confirmation if he shall be reappointed district attorney. He says he knows of no such opposition and that he is in Washington solely on official business with the commissioner of internal revenue.

Senator Tillman told me today that he would raise no opposition in the senate to Capers's confirmation as district attorney. "In fact," he said, "as soon as he gets out of the way of the district judgeship the better it will be for the new district bill." Mr. Capers came here from Richmond, where he was engaged with cases before the United States circuit court. He left for home tonight.

LOOKING FOR THE BOOKS

The Investigation in the Secretary of State's Office, Covering Certain Years Prior to Term of Present Occupant,

Columbia, December 8.—During the last session of the general assembly this note was sent to Secretary of State Gantt:

Columbia, S. C., February 1, 1905.
Hon. J. T. Gantt, Secretary of State, Columbia, S. C.—Dear Sir: We respectfully ask that you produce for our inspection the four receipt books containing itemized, partly printed receipts, duly numbered, showing fees received by the Secretary of State, extending from some time in 1899 to some time in 1902, when these receipts were discontinued; also cash book kept for the Secretary of State, extending from time the book, Secretary of State's account fees, Vol. 2, was discontinued, and extending to the end of Mr. M. R. Cooper's term of office; also all bank books for the year 1903.

The committee will be pleased to have these books this afternoon at 3:30 p. m., when it resumes its examination of the office of Secretary of State.

Yours truly,
Thos. B. Butler.

Chairman Legislative examining committee.

This letter is the index to an inquiry that is now going on.

The books were not produced. Mr. Gantt could not find them and wishes very much that he could.

What became of the books no one appears to know and that is what the Legislative committee is seeking to ascertain.

Today the Legislative committee, consisting of Senators Butler and Douglass and Representatives Richards, Toole and Beamguard, instituted an investigation to get such light as they could as to the whereabouts of the missing books of receipts and vouchers.

Stenographer McFeat took what testimony could be gathered and the desire was to gather what light was possible, and if the books are not found, then to let the general assembly know all that can be learned as to the history of the particular books, which may or may not amount to anything.

The committee say that the books are wanted to check up the administration of Mr. Cooper; while Mr. Gantt was chief clerk. The books of Mr. Gantt's administration have all been checked up and a full report made to the general assembly on the accounts of his term, and the missing books refer only to Mr. Cooper's term of office when Mr. Gantt was in the office only as chief clerk.

Mr. Gantt was sick in bed today and he could not be examined by the committee. Mr. D. H. Means, who was in charge of the books for a while, but who turned them over intact in July, 1902, was not sworn today.

The chief witnesses before the committee today were Mr. R. M. McCown, who is chief clerk in the office and who took charge of the finances of the office after Mr. Means.

Mr. McCown had nothing to do with the fiscal affairs of the office during Mr. Cooper's tenure of office, until after 1902.

Mr. McCown testified that he did not now where the books were nor what had become of them. He was in Florence on the day of the fire in the office of the Secretary of State, when the books are supposed to have been destroyed by fire, and he did not know what had been destroyed and what had not been destroyed. He went into a detailed account of how the books of the office were kept, and that he insisted on keeping the books and depositing the funds if he was to be held responsible for the finances, and that the office has had a complete check system during his tenure as chief clerk.

Miss Gertrude Walker testified that she was now the stenographer in the office, and knew nothing whatever of the books in question, and that she was not in the office during Mr. Cooper's term of office and that she would not have known the books, as her work was constant and in other matters.

Mr. D. W. McLaurin, who has an office for the sinking fund commission in the same rooms, testified that he did not know what became of the

books. He had absolutely nothing to do with the books and could not tell whether they were destroyed in the fire of September, 1904, or not.

The committee will give Mr. Gantt and Mr. Means a hearing just as soon as Mr. Gantt is able to be present.

MR. McCULLOUGH'S VIEWS.

What He Thinks Ought to be Done About the Liquor Question.

Washington, December 8. J. A. McCullough, of Greenville, who is prominently talked of as a prohibition candidate for governor of South Carolina, talked about the situation in South Carolina today. He said:

"I do not think there is any doubt that the dispensary will be voted out. Already Greenville, Anderson and several other counties have cast decided majorities against the system."

In reply to a question as to what he thought was the solution of the present agitation in the state, the Greenville lawyer said:

"The best thing to be done, in my opinion, is the enactment of a state prohibition law, with the privilege granted to each county to vote for high license or the dispensary if they choose. In other words, I would reverse conditions. Instead of allowing the counties to vote whiskey out, let them vote it in if they see fit."

"Well, don't you think that many counties in fact, a majority of them, would vote for high license?"

"No," was Mr. McCullough's reply. "I do not think more than two counties, if that many, would vote to make their territory 'wet.' Charleston and Richland might do so, but I am not certain about that."

Mr. McCullough believes that an increase of the constabulary force will be sufficient to maintain prohibition in the state.

W. W. Price.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND DISCHARGE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will make a final settlement as Executors on the estate of Henry Shealy, deceased, in the Probate Court for Newberry county on the 15th day of December, 1905, at 11 o'clock a. m. All persons holding claims against the said estate will present the same duly attested by said date and all persons indebted to the said estate will make payment.

B. F. Shealy,
J. A. Shealy,
Executors.

REWARD—A reward of Ten Dollars will be paid by the undersigned as trustees for proof to convict the party or parties who have been abusing the property of the Johnstone Academy building. All persons are forbidden to trespass upon said property under penalty of the law.

J. B. Halfacre,
G. McD. Sligh,
W. F. Stone,
Trustees.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND DISCHARGE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will make a final settlement as Executor on the estate of Minta Titus, deceased, in the Probate Court for Newberry county on the 29th day of December, 1905, at 11 o'clock a. m. All persons holding claims against the said estate will present the same duly attested by said date and all persons indebted to the said estate will make payment.

Jno. B. Morgan,
Executor.

NOTICE.

All persons having claims against the estate of James W. Derrick, deceased, will present the same duly attested, to my attorneys, Messrs. Hunt, Hunt and Hunter, on or before the 15th of January, 1906.

Ella M. Derrick,
Administratrix of the estate of Jas. W. Derrick, deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

All persons holding claims against the estate of Matilda Beacham, deceased, must present the same, duly attested, to the undersigned executors on or before the first day of January, 1906. And all persons indebted to said estate will make payment by said date.

J. O. Moore,
W. T. Gibson,
Executors.

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"Nothing Succeeds Like Success"
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Dry Goods, Millinery, Shoes and Notions.

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with artistic design
stamped on each ready
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