

B. S. DINKINS, Editor and Proprietor.

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT.

The Grand Jury present cogent reasons for the abolition of the Trial Justice system, and we hope our Delegation will consider carefully that part of their report. It is apparent to every observer that Trial Justices in Clarendon County, as a whole, are an ignominious failure. Recent events have disclosed the fact that more than one of these positions are occupied by men whose ignorance can only be compared to the contempt and ridicule measured to them and their Courts. These men are only known in the Courthouse by the County Commissioners and Treasurer, before whom they regularly appear for a share of the County funds. Yet, as was remarked by Judge Kershaw at Chester, the machinery for the punishment and suppression of crime in South Carolina is more expensive than that of any other State in the Union. Tax payers and thoughtful citizens will welcome any change. County Courts come to us well recommended. Wherever they are established the administration of the law is more able, economic and as a consequence, more satisfactory. Then give us the County Courts. But the present system can be materially improved. Increase the salary of the office, and give it to a man of sound sense and education, and let the practice cease of making a Trial Justice out of an ignorant boor, because he is the friend of a Senator or chum of a Representative. The suggestion made in the News and Courier is good—let the Solicitor recommend the applicant. Another recommendation of the Grand Jury which merits consideration, is that a suitable law be enacted that persons convicted of certain misdemeanors may be made to work on the public roads etc. A law of this kind would be to the County hundreds of dollars every year and a merciful providence to those confined in prison pens.

PRESENTMENT OF THE GRAND JURY.

To His Honor, A. P. Aldrich, Judge presiding: The Grand Jury respectfully submit the following general presentment. The Public Buildings have all been examined and the offices also, since last term of Court, aided by an expert. The Jail is leaky and in very bad condition; scarcely fit for persons at all, and the grounds in similar condition. The Poor House, in a general way, has been well managed, but the case of Edward Garnet, an aged inmate, is worthy of notice and we suggest, that he be allowed something better suited to his great age and infirmities. Some of the rooms have not had proper regard to cleanliness bestowed upon them. The changes heretofore recommended, at a previous term, in reference to the Court House, have not met with proper attention and again we repeat that the Bar be enlarged for benefit of Court and officers; that good arm chairs be supplied in place of those now used; that the Bar Aisle and Judge's stand be carpeted with suitable material; that the Clerk's office be enlarged and supplied with tables and other lacking furniture; and that the Sheriff be supplied with an Iron Safe.

We find that the County Commissioners have contracted for a General Index to Jan. 1882 of Record of Mesne Conveyance and we suggest that the contract be extended as to time, that four Books may be prepared to wit: 1 General Index for Conveyance of Real Estate, 1 General Index for Mortgages of Real Estate, 1 General Index to Chattel Mortgages, 1 General Index to Liens.

The Public Offices have all been examined, and while some are better kept than others, all were found in such condition, as to justify the Grand Jury in reporting, that the County officials are all faithful, efficient and reliable. Trial Justice Wilson's office has been found fully up to requirements. By reference to Books of Treasurer, he is found to have paid in by fines &c., \$99.00. The others as follows: Trial Justice Mahoney \$17.90, Thompson \$7, Richardson \$4. The last two named have not filed with Auditor the Reports required by Law. The Trial Justice system, after a mature deliberation and observance of its working, we pronounce all most a failure; and we would recommend instead County Courts, as it is held by us that such a change would more effectually serve the interests of all concerned; and if such can be lawfully accomplished, we would recommend that such steps be taken as will effect the employment of parties convicted of small offences and misdemeanors, upon the Roads Bridges and other public works. This in the opinion of the Grand Jury, would so materially lessen the current expenses of the County and more effectually punish criminals, that the beneficial results would soon be recognized and felt.

We furthermore report the valuable assistance of expert B. S. Dinkins, Esq., who aided us for five days, and we recommend that he be paid twenty-five dollars for said service. All of which is respectfully submitted. C. S. LAND Foreman.

A Free Trade Club, the first in the State, was organized at Columbia, Saturday. Delegates were elected to the Free Trade Convention to be held at Chicago on the 11th inst.

Mr. Chandler on the Kingstree Examination.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MANNING TIMES: The Clarendon Enterprise of last week occupied nearly all of its valuable editorial column with a criticism upon the competitive examination recently held in Kingstree. I have no objection to the Enterprise's criticism so far as its views only are given, for these will never cause much stir on earth. But when the Enterprise attempts to deal with "facts" it must observe the ninth commandment. The statements and charges made by the Enterprise in regard to the said examination are quoted and corrected as follows: (1) "The examination did not begin until Friday afternoon." The examination was somewhat delayed on account of the illness of the Chairman of the examining board; but Dr. J. S. Brookington, medical examiner, began the physical examination about 10 o'clock, A. M., and the applicants commenced the written examination before 12 M. (2) "Mr. Chandler alone conducted the examination." The examination was conducted by Messrs. H. J. Haynesworth and E. G. Chandler, the former acting by request in place of Prof. Allen, the Chairman of the board, who was ill. (3) "Undue partiality was shown in favor of one of the applicants, in one instance going so far as to suggest the rewriting of a part of the examination paper." What the classic Enterprise means by "undue partiality" I shall not attempt to divine; but the charge that partiality was shown either contestant is false. I suggested to the young men, when about to begin their work, that they write their answers first on scrap-paper and afterwards copy them on the papers to be submitted us. No assistance was given either youth in answering the questions placed before him. At the request of one of the applicants, I explained the meaning of a certain question. Mr. Haynesworth was then present. No other of the applicants was alone with me during the examination, and each heard what I had to say to the other. (4) "The examination papers were examined by the board separately, and a different result was reached by the two examiners." The result as ascertained by each examiner was the same, superiority being by each accorded the same set of papers. I made a cursory examination of the papers immediately upon receiving them, and while subject to interruptions by persons coming into the office where I was engaged in the prosecution of my duties, I then enclosed the papers to Prof. Allen, with a note stating my findings. That evening I went by request to Prof. Allen's, for the purpose of a joint examination of the papers and a decision as to their relative merits. Prof. Allen said he thought I had rated both applicants a little too high. We then went into a careful and complete examination of the papers, which resulted in a lower grading of each, but with about the same proportional difference between them as had been determined by my first examination. These last ascertained gradings were sent the Citadel authorities. (5) "Near the close of the examination when one of the candidates acknowledged his inability to answer a certain question correctly, while the other asked for a longer time in which to answer the question, Mr. Chandler peremptorily closed the examination, on the ground that it would be giving the former applicant an advantage over the former not to close the examination then." The examination was closed after having given the applicant more than ten hours in which to answer the questions. The adjournment over night I regretted, but it could not be avoided. Arithmetic had been disposed of the first day, and both applicants had failed to do one example given—the extraction of the cube root of a difference fraction. Had either done this example next morning, he would not have been credited with it, as access meantime might have been had to textbooks, or assistance otherwise obtained. Some time before closing I stated to the contestants that I could allow them to work only a short time longer. When that elapsed I must close. Both finished within the time, and just did finish one a little before the other. One asked if there was time to try the example above referred to again. Of course I did not allow him to do so. Each appeared fully satisfied with his treatment at my hand. Mr. Nettles must allow me to question the motives for his attack. I am credibly informed that he predicted the success of one applicant before trial. He exhibited prejudice in favor of that applicant, who received instruction in Mr. Nettles's academy. He has published reflections upon one unknown to him, and these are based upon evidence from one side only. A "born examiner" should look better to his foundation for statements. He has evidently not sought the truth in this matter of the competitive examination. Errors may have been committed in the examination, but some things are more culpable than errors. E. G. CHANDLER.

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L. & B. S. M. H., SAVANNAH, GA.,

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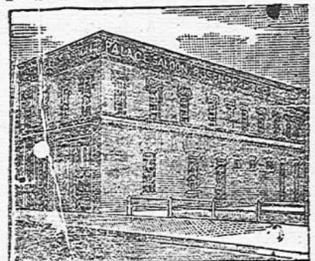
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