

PALMETTO HAPPENINGS

News Notes of General Interest From All Parts of the State.

Commission Pays Sums Due.

Columbia, Special.—Chairman Murray of the dispensary commission Thursday supervised the paying out of the last of the liquor claims allowed by the commission's recent judgments. The amount paid out Thursday was \$147,874.47, the largest amount being \$65,000 to Clark Bros., \$45,000 to Fleischmann and \$7,000 to the Schlitz beer people. The only claim allowed remaining unpaid is that to the Big Springs Distilling Company, which is suspended pending appeal. This was the only concern allowed anything which has appealed. The commission has left about \$450,000, which includes about \$50,000 "coscience money," half of which goes to the lawyers. Chairman Murray said that after all attorneys' fees are paid and all other expenses met the commission would turn in to the State about \$320,000.

Most of the firms which off Thursday were represented by ex-Speaker of the Kentucky House of Representatives A. J. Carroll, whose fees will be large and juicy. Mr. Carroll gave the commission much valuable assistance in the way of evidence.

Big Blow to Liquor People.

Charleston Special.—In sending his monthly report to the State Government in Columbia concerning the amount of seizures made in Charleston, city and county, during the last thirty days, Chief Constable Bateman had the distinction of having been able to forward the best monthly report of any raiding constable in this city since the beginning of the dispensary law in this State. The report showed that an even 1,000 gallons of whiskey, of all grades and qualities, had been seized by the raiding squad during the month of November, together with a total of 6,500 bottles of beer. This immense amount of contraband liquor is valued at between \$2,400 and \$2,500 to the county dispensary. It is stated that these figures do not represent the actual loss to the blind tigers and illicit liquor dealers entailed by the seizure of the liquor. Had the amount seized by the constables been sold in blind tigers, it would in all probability have netted about \$3,200.

Head-On Collision at Park's Station.

Laurens, Special.—A head-on collision between trains 52 and 53 on the Columbia, Newberry & Laurens railroad occurred at Park's station Wednesday afternoon at about 2:30 o'clock, resulting in considerable damage to the two engines, severe bruises to Engineer Dan McCraney of Columbia and a thorough clanking up for all the passengers. It is learned that every passenger was thrown from his seat.

The collision was the result of Engineer Joe Gate's confusion of Tuesday's and Wednesday's pass orders, so it is reported. He had both orders in his pocket and read the wrong one.

Orangeburg Stables Burned.

Orangeburg, Special.—At 3 o'clock in the morning, fire was discovered by Policeman Fickling in the West End stables on South Broughton St., owned by J. H. Albrecht, and burned so rapidly that notwithstanding this the fireman arrived in good time and did heroic work, the flames spread in two directions, consuming three small buildings and their contents. The stables and barns were totally destroyed with eleven head of horses, eighteen buggies, three carriages and twenty-five sets of harness, besides about \$2,000 worth of feed. Ten of the eleven horses were the property of Mr. Albrecht, and one was that of a stranger who left the animal with Mr. Albrecht on Saturday night.

Traction Lins Changes Hands.

Greenville, Special.—The Anderson Traction Company's holdings were transferred to E. W. Robertson Monday afternoon by Special Master J. A. Brock, of Anderson. Robertson then sold the road to Capt. Smyth, as trustee for the syndicate composed of the Dukes and Greenville business men. Capt. Smyth will operate the road as trustee with W. J. Thackston as general agent, until a charter can be secured.

Diis of Injuries Caused by Premature Explosion.

Gaffney, Special.—A young white man named Lanier was injured last Wednesday night at the works at the Ninety-nine Islands by a premature explosion of dynamite. The young fellow lingered until Sunday morning when he died. His relatives believed that it was the result of carelessness and have employed counsel to investigate the facts in connection with the accident.

Five Firms File Appeals.

Columbia, Special.—Only five notices of appeal to the Supreme Court have been filed from the findings of the dispensary commission. The time is out, and therefore, only about \$60,000 of the sealings of \$226,000 will be contested. Among the most notable appeals is that of the Carolina Glass Company, of this city, whose claim of over \$23,600 was wiped out and an over-judgment of nearly \$30,000 found. The other companies who have appealed are the King County Big Springs Distilling Company, Jack Cranston Company and William Lanahan & Sons.

KNOX PLAN APPROVED.

Board of Examiners Will Pass Upon the Fitness of All Applicants For Position of Secretary and the Records of Efficiency Will Be Preserved.

Washington, Special.—To improve the personnel and efficiency of the diplomatic service and to encourage and commercial foreign relations of for promotion to the rank or ministers, President Taft has approved a plan suggested by Secretary of State Knox, and published it as an Executive order.

The new prospect provides for a board of examiners to pass upon all applicants for appointments as secretaries and prescribes the standard plan to the President, points out the remarkable growth of the political and commercial foreign relations of the United States and the increasing difficulty of the problems to be dealt with.

Records of efficiency of all the under secretaries will be preserved in the State Department and appointment from outside the service to secretaryship will be made only to the class of third secretary of embassy; or, in case of higher vacancies, of second secretary of legation, or of secretary of legation at posts which have assigned to them only one secretary. Vacancies in secretaryships of the higher class will in the future be filled by promotion from the lower grades, and efficiency and ability demonstrated in the service will be the tests of advancement.

All the secretaryships in the future will be graded according to the importance or difficulty or other aspects of the work done at each mission, and these classifications will be made known to the service so that every man may know just where he stands.

The examining board will determine the fitness of candidates designated by the President for examination. The examinations will be held at Washington and will be both oral and written. A physical examination will be supplemental.

COTTON MEN WRONGED.

Commissioner of Corporations Denounces the Practice of Dealing in Futures.

Washington, Special.—Both the producers of cotton and the dealers in that commodity are the victims of the system of trading in vogue on the cotton exchange of the country. This is the burden of parts 4 and 5 of the report of Commissioner of Corporations Herbert Knox Smith on the conduct of such exchanges. The practice of dealing in futures, as it is carried on at present, is condemned, the existence of the exchange.

"The brief discussion of general speculation in this report," says Mr. Smith, "recognizes the possibilities for good inherent in a great central market like a cotton exchange, and the need that this good be developed and evils eliminated by regulations in line with economic law."

The report is especially condemnatory of the dealings in futures, branding this form of speculation as pure gambling and highly injurious to legitimate trade. In quotations for "future" deliveries of cotton, the market is so uncertain and so many elements of change enter into the transaction that all bids are made at a much lower figure than those offered for cotton actually in existence.

The effect of these fictitious quotations, the report points out, tends to mislead the cotton planted as to the true value of his crop, honestly grown. In addition it leads brokers to "play" both sides of the market to protect themselves against loss in such trades, with the result that the producer is forced to pay in the end, while the farmer loses likewise.

The report, while recognizing that the exchanges in New Orleans and New York are necessary, does not mince words in criticising the New York exchange. After declaring that the New Orleans methods of conducting the transactions in cotton following natural lines, the report draws attention to the fact that it has been proven that the abnormal depressions in the future price in New York "were almost wholly due to improper artificial conditions now maintained by the New York cotton exchange. By maintaining them the New York exchange is responsible for a very real injury to the producer and merchant."

King of Sweden Mingles With the People.

Stockholm, By Cable.—King Gustave on Saturday inaugurated a new departure for sovereigns. Disguised as a stevedore he spent most of the day carrying sacks of coal from a lighter. In an interview, after it was all over, the King said that this was only the beginning. He intended to mix with all classes of laborers, so that he might ascertain their opinions and wishes. Already he added, he had obtained many valuable hints from the men with whom he worked.

W. J. Colburn Likely to Accept the Chinese Ministership.

Chicago, Special.—William J. Calhoun, a Chicago attorney and diplomat, Sunday night admitted that Secretary of State Knox had offered him the post of minister to China. The admission came in denial of a report that he had declined to accept the offer. Mr. Calhoun explained that he had been induced by Secretary of State Knox to reconsider a determination not to accept the appointment which was offered two weeks ago.

SOUTH CAROLINA AFFAIRS

The Cream of News Items Gathered From All Over South Carolina and Boiled Down.

To Inspect Waterworks Plants in the State.

Columbia, Special.—In order to prevent much sanitary trouble now experienced throughout the State on account of sewerage pollutions of streams and obviate much more trouble in this respect in the future, the State Board of Health will ask the Legislature which meets next month to provide for the purification of all sewer outlets in the State, and to this end will ask for the appointment of a competent engineer to devote all of his time to this problem, and to inspections of waterworks. The board would have not only all present sewerage systems provided with purification plants, but would have all future plants so provided and would have all waterworks plants erected only after competent supervision as to the purity of the supply of water.

"We cannot say without investigation what these purification plants would cost," said Dr. Williams, the State health officer, "this would have to be determined after the engineer made thorough investigation in the case of each city, but this expense need be only nominal for the State itself, as each city should pay for its own plant. Unless South Carolina adopts such protective measures as have been put in force in other States, it will only be a question of a short time before practically all of the streams of the State will be polluted, and the fight to combat the difficulties that will follow will indeed be expensive. The engineer for health reasons should also supervise the plans for all future waterworks, to see that every place gets and maintains a pure supply."

Contest for Corn Prizes to Close Soon.

Columbia, Special.—Commissioner Watson, who is chairman of the State corn contest commission, is anxious to have the judgment of samples and the examination of manuals completed before the end of the year. A number of contestants have not sent in their samples, as required under the rules. Last year the work of the commission was not completed until February. The competition was inaugurated with a view to increase grain growers' profits by increasing the yield per acre, and also the quality of corn and oats through simple methods of seed selection and proper culture. The contest is conducted under the supervision of the State department of agriculture.

Naval School for Charleston.

Charleston, Special.—A new institution has just been established at the Charleston Navy Yard, and is the only one of its kind at any of the yards in the country. It is a school for the training of young midshipmen in torpedo boat work and engineering. Of such importance is the school that all young men doing torpedo boat work will be ordered here for instruction. There will be a regular course of lectures by officers at the yard and weekly routine will be followed. The head of the school is Lieut. Commander Freeman. Lectures will be given by Surgeon Edgar Thompson, a medical officer at the yard. Past Assistant Paymaster O'Mara and several of the ensigns stationed with the reserve flotilla.

Riggs Chosen Acting President of Clemson.

Clemson College, Special.—W. M. Riggs, director of the mechanical department of Clemson College has been elected acting president of the institution, succeeding Dr. P. H. Mell, who retires January 1. Col. M. P. Hardin, head of the Chemical department, who was elected acting president, declined to serve. Senator Benjamin R. Tillman, Alan Johnstone and R. I. Manning, a committee selected to recommend a president, will continue their search for an executive.

Fearful Wreck at Camden.

Camden, Special.—With a shock which made the whole town tremble, a pre-sto-carbon tank in the Southern express office here exploded Thursday, wrecking the office building and causing a fire which swept half a block of Camden's finest business section with a loss of over \$100,000. One negro man is reported to have been killed, two prominent citizens injured and five others are hurt.

Damages Against Mill For Blacklisting.

Columbia, Special.—The jury in what is known as the Rhodes blacklisting case against the Granby cotton mills returned a verdict for \$10,000 for Rhodes because the mill blacklisted him several years ago because he joined the strike against the mill. The plaintiff showed, however, that he was discharged and blacklisted before he became a striker. The case is an important one in that it tests the right of a corporation to blacklist for striking. The mill is confident of reversing the lower court.

Killed and Injured Past Year.

Sixty-seven people were killed and 758 injured on the railroads of the State during the year ending June 30, according to the annual reports of the 25 companies received by the railroad commission. It is shown in the last annual report of the commission that 57 were killed and 1,097 injured. It will be seen that the number killed on the railroads has increased this year while the number of injured was less by several hundred.

ALABAMA VOTES AGAINST

Prohibition Amendment to Constitution Lost by Majority of 18,000 or 20,000.

Birmingham, Ala., Special.—All indications point to a majority of between 18,000 and 20,000 in Alabama against the prohibition constitutional amendment Monday. Chairman J. Lee Long, who has been in charge of the fight against the amendment, claims that the majority against the amendment will be fully 20,000.

Jefferson county, in which Birmingham, the largest city in the State, is in spite of the fact that the fight has been concentrated here, gave a majority of over 1,000 against the amendment. Mobile, Montgomery and Cullman counties show the largest majorities on the victorious side and it appears the amendment has carried in but three counties, Talladega, Macon and Sumter, with Lee in doubt.

Monday's election being the first time the State has ever had an opportunity to pass on the prohibition question, is regarded as especially significant. Still it cannot be regarded as a straight anti-prohibition victory because of the personal politics that has been injected into the issue. Its association with the administration of Governor B. B. Comer and his reputed ability to name a successor to the governorship in Judge S. D. Weakley, author of the prohibition bills, have figured prominently in the result.

A significant feature of the result is the fact that sentiment against the amendment is so widespread. Rural precincts, small towns and cities alike are, for the most part, returning substantial majorities on the winning side.

There has never been seen here anything like the enthusiasm shown in Birmingham over the result. The result everywhere is regarded as a distinct repudiation of the present State administration which has been particularly radical in its so-called reform program.

Nothing in Flour to Cause Pellagra.

Columbia, Special.—The investigations Dr. F. L. Parker of Charleston in charge of the pure food inspection for the State board, has been carrying on for several months to see if there is any bad corn meal adulteration or other thing in the flour made or offered for sale in this State calculated to cause pellagra, have been concluded with the result that none of the flours will be indicted. It had been pointed out in a number of pellagra cases that the victims eat no product of corn, and the board determined to see whether the flour was adulterated.

Anderson City Council Grants Franchise For Gas Plant.

Anderson, Special.—At a special meeting of city council Arthur Medwedoff and associates of Chicago were granted a franchise for a gas plant in Anderson. Work on the plant must be commenced within six months and the plant must be in operation in twelve months. Failure to comply with these provisions will cause the forfeiture of \$500, which must be deposited with the city treasurer when the franchise is accepted.

A Good Trade.

Mamma: "Have you been taking your cough medicine, like a good boy?" Tommy: "No ma'am, I let Polly taste it an' she liked it so I traded it to her for an orange."

In Demand.

"That's a very popular man." "Yes; he'll listen to the details of your summer trip thout insisting on telling about his own."—Kansas City Journal.

Snow Ties Up Trains.

St. Paul, Minn., Special.—Cold and snow are now delaying freight traffic on the Northern Pacific and some parts of the Great Northern railroads more than the strike of switchmen, according to statements issued by the general managers of those roads Sunday night. According to General Manager Slade of the Northern Pacific, freight is more or less tied up all along the system on account of the snow and especially in northern Minnesota and North Dakota. Passenger trains are from one to four hours late in St. Paul Sunday night.

The 20th annual conference of the Southern Educational Conference will be held at Charlotte, 28th, 29th and 30th of this month.

Strike About Over.

St. Paul, Minn., Special.—With 1,500 men imported to take the place of the striking switchmen who are members of the Switchmen's Union of North America and those strikers who are members of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, returning to work, managers of the Great Northern Railway Friday night asserted that the strike was about over. The strike leaders, however, despite the desertion, asserted that the strike had only begun. Freight congestion is not appreciably relieved.

TO BEAUTIFY THE BEDROOM.

To those who have Browline cancras 2 1/4 x 3 1/4, take a piece of card any size desired, cut places oval or diamond shape, take a piece of pretty silkoline and put over cut same shape of cardboard; may pad it with cotton if desired, glue down the edges, paste picture in the apertures in the frame and cover back with silkoline. Hang with ribbons. It is very pretty.

THE LONG SESSION

Appropriation Bills Give Right of Way.

LIVELY TIMES EXPECTED.

Much Interest is Manifested in President's Message on Account of Many Questions he Will Have to Deal With.

Washington, D. C., Special.—Congress assembled Monday on the "long session," which will probably run into the summer. Senators and Representatives who have arrived express a determination to take up the work of the session vigorously with the hope of having it well advanced before the holidays. The House is already organized by the election of Speaker and officers at the extra session, and the appointment of committees, so there will be no excuse for that body not getting down to business at once.

The appropriation bills are to be given the right of way at both ends of the capital and pressed through with all possible haste. When the appropriations bills have been disposed of Congress will turn its attention to more interesting if not more important measures.

Here are some of the things Congress will find ready to hand to work on:

Sweeping changes in the railway laws, giving added power to the interstate Commerce Commission. An amendment to the Sherman anti-trust act exempting labor unions from penalties for combination. Subventions for the upbuilding of the merchant marine and extension of the ocean mail service.

Authorization to railroads to pool under strict supervision of the interstate Commerce Commission.

Legislation regulating the boycott and the issuance of injunctions against labor organizations.

Internal waterway improvements, according to the policy outlined by the President in his recent addresses in the South and West.

A proposal to reduce the present tax on oleomargarine.

An investigation of the sugar trust scandal will be proposed, and may or may not be undertaken.

Much interest is manifested in the President's message on account of the great importance of the many questions it will have to deal with. No presidential message in years, it is safe to say, will have been listened to with a greater amount of eagerness and interest. In the course of his recent tour of the country Mr. Taft outlined in his various addresses the views he held concerning the great public questions of the day and which he is expected to incorporate in his message.

The President will propose to Congress important legislation upon at least ten subjects. Each is a matter which will provoke discussion and arouse opposition in Congress. The chief subjects to be dealt with are: Supervision of the issue of stocks and bonds by interstate corporations; readjustment of the duties and power of the Interstate Commerce Commission; expansion of the duties of the Bureau of Corporations; creation of a new bureau in the Department of Justice to deal with violations of law by interstate carriers; establishment of a so-called "railroad court"; amendment of the Sherman anti-trust act; creation of a postal savings bank; ship subsidies; amendment of the procedure regarding the granting of injunctions, and the conservation of natural resources. In addition to these it is probable that currency reform will be recommended, not as something to be immediately undertaken, but to be considered when the report of the Monetary Commission is completed.

Politics in Great Britain.

London, Special.—The whole of Great Britain is immersed in the political campaign which has been inaugurated by the refusal of the House of Lords to consent to the budget. The country is divided into two great camps, composed of those who support the Lords' action and those who contend that the House of Commons must have absolute control of the finances of the nation. There are, of course, many other issues, such as tariff reform versus free trade, but these are being pushed into the background by the conflict between the two houses. While the various local organizations are busy selecting candidates and preparing for the contests in their respective districts, the leaders of the great parties are carrying on a general campaign. The radicals, who had long foreseen the fate of their finance bill, are not allowing the grass to grow under their feet.

In London Saturday afternoon one of their organizations the National Democratic League, held a demonstration as a protest against the action of the Lords which was one of the most notable ever held in the metropolis. Fully 20,000 persons, mostly of the laboring and artisan classes, gathered in Trafalgar square and cheered the radical speakers, who condemned in unmeasured terms the members of the upper chamber.

A man is such a fool about what good judgment he thinks he has, contends the New York Press, that he will even give his wife advice about the best way for her to handle him.



GOOD ROADS

Good Roads in the South. It is a very exceptional neighborhood in the South that does not have better roads, and it is an equally exceptional community that cannot have better roads. While many sections cannot hope to have the best roads, macadam or gravel—for a long time to come, there is no excuse for a locality allowing its roads to remain positively and permanently bad.

A good road is a (1) hard, smooth road, (2) free from holes and grades. Any road which answers these requirements will insure quick and quick traveling, and permit the hauling of large loads—and that is all that is required of a road. Of course, the best road is the hardest and smoothest one, the macadam road being superior to the gravel road; but remember that even the earth road need not be bad. This is the thing we wish this good roads special to say to every man who reads it. "There is a way for you to improve the road over which you travel, and it will pay you to do it. If we can only get our readers to realize this fact we believe that they will not be content to longer waste the strength of their teams, their own time, and their money by dragging, over rocks, pulling through deep sand, jolting across ditches, splashing about in mudholes, and climbing steep hills. Every road cannot be macadamized, or even gravelled; but many more could be than are. Few bond issues for good roads in our territory have been bad investments, while the cases in which they would be good investments could be numbered by the hundreds. The tax the ordinary farmer would have to pay to build and maintain stone roads, in any moderately settled community, is much smaller than the tax he now pays to bad roads in the increased cost of his hauling. Over a large section of the south sand-clay roads could be built at a very small cost, indeed, compared to what they would be worth to the community through which they run. Thousands and thousands of miles of earth roads could be redeemed from their chronic state of badness by the persistent use of the split-log road drag, and the cost of doing the work would be so small that no one would feel it. And everywhere that there is a bad road it could be improved if the men work it would simply remember the surface of the road should be kept smooth and free from obstructions, and that the first do with the water that falls on the road is to get it off and away. (N. C.) Progressive Farmer.

Doubly Interested. The farmer is in a double sense more deeply interested in good roads than anyone else. To him good roads mean a great decrease in the cost of getting his produce to the market and getting his supplies back. Likewise mean a lessening of the illness of life.

To the people of every town, city the building of good roads is most as important as it is to farmers. It means the betterment every phase of life and a closer mingling of the people of town and city; the lessening of wear and on vehicles and the betterment of the conditions under which it is carried on. And then the of good highways inevitable largely to the value of adjacent property. It is not too much to road-building is not an investment, paying a tax to every community that else it can do. The building of farm products by the cost of hauling. In it inevitably results in an value to all property and the cost of roads is more up by this gain in prosperity very false idea of many building of roads is an expense a community cannot afford. On the contrary, it is an investment every well-settled and well-organized community can afford to make, returns the largest possible profit, and a profit in which man, woman and child shares.

Thorough Road Construction.

The railroad companies learned that there is economy heavy steel rails, in strong br. and in large freight cars, and in a manner the farmers will learn that good roads reduce the cost of transportation by wagon. As a chain is stronger than its weakest link, so availability of a wagon road is terminated by its steepest hill or roughest place. A natural road in some places, may never make economic hauling impracticable because of difficult obstructions at one or two points. Hence arises the need of thorough road construction at maintenance.—Denver Republican

There is a belief prevalent among the natives of Asia Minor that the thicker the clothing worn at all seasons of the year, the better it is for the human body, protecting it from the winter cold and the summer heat. In Canea it is not unusual to see people wearing unbuttoned skin coats in the midst of summer, with the thermometer standing at 100 degrees.