

Speech Delivered by Rear Admiral Samuel McGowan, Retired, Before the South Carolina Bar Association January 28, 1922.

It took no requisition to bring me here.

I was so glad to be invited that I accepted by telegraph; and I am indeed delighted to be with you tonight.

Twenty-seven years is a long stay away from God's country; but the exile is home again and he fully realizes that the only one redeeming feature about having to leave South Carolina at all is the joy of coming back.

It is a special honor to be permitted to join this distinguished company. I have always wanted to be a lawyer. I was admitted to the Bar; but I had to make a living, and so I wished myself in turn on the Record, the State and the News and Courier.

But journalism did not seem to need me much more than did the law; so, thanks to a South Carolinian—Hilary A. Herbert—I was able to get aboard the Navy and quit work.

I did not actually quit right away, in fact that happened just four weeks ago; but, ever since I shipped in 1894, I was headed straight for the retired list and South Carolina.

Meanwhile several things have happened, especially during 1917 and 1918. Washington, as many of you know, is a beautiful city with an abundance of easy marks and far more than its share of confidence men. These latter were working overtime a while back—it being my job to try to tame some of them; and, if you believe what a kindly press has been telling an ever-credulous public, you might think I won the war all by myself.

I did not. In fact, I had very little to do with it except to occasionally remind somebody that there are 12 in a dozen and 16 ounces to a pound, that from April 7, 1917, to date an average ton of government coal was really worth at the mines but \$2.60 and, in general, that "No" is the mule-power of the soul.

Of course the calamity-howlers and crepe-hangers have been quite busy since the signing of the armistice; the length and variety of their fault-finding adjectives—particularly during the recent campaign—recalling the story of two old shell-backs pacing the forecastle during the mid-watch.

"Bill," said one, "this Navy of ours is going straight to the devil."

"Yes," replied his shipmate, "it always did!"

Such senseless pessimism was, fortunately, not much in evidence when it might have done real harm; but, to get the service back to where it was, will take a lot of whole-souled optimism—what you might call peacetime patriotism (spelled without any "y" in the middle), the patriotism that is active and helpful when there are no bands playing or crowds clapping their hands.

And that is just what South Carolina needs right now—the will to smile and show the world (herself most of all) that she can weather any gale though she may have to be for a while like the little boy who "whistled that he might not weep".

Your honored President says my time limit is 20 minutes.

I shall yield most of that without objection because, as you see, I am no speaker; and, if I tried to last so long, we should all be in as bad a plight as my uncle and life-long benefactor, Judge Samuel McGowan, said his first client was.

The charge was horse stealing, and the prosecution had dispelled every doubt—reasonably and otherwise. Toward the end of his speech, my uncle tried to move the jury by likening the prisoner to "Daniel in the Flery Furnace".

A friend pulled his coat tail and whispered that it was not a Flery Furnace but a Lion's Den where Daniel had his trouble.

All undisimayed, he shook himself loose from his disturber and shouted to the jury:

"Oh, well; have it either way. But, Lion's Den or Flery Furnace, he was in a hell of a fix."

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BON AIR HOTEL AT AUGUSTA BURNED

Many Distinguished Guests, Half-Clad Forced to Flee Burning Building. Augusta, Ga., Feb. 4.—The Bon Air large winter resort hotel in the south, was destroyed by fire this morning early. The flames originated in the dining room and are attributed to some fault with the electric lighting equipment. There were 260 guests in the hotel. No one was injured, though many guests lost much of their personal belongings. Two men, Frank A. Lawrence of New York, and M. T. Wing, of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, who were ill in the hotel, were removed to the University Hospital, and statements from there are that they are none the worse physically for their experience.

The fire started in the dining room and is attributed to damaged insulation of electric wires. The guests have found accommodations at nearby winter hotels and at homes of residents on The Hill, the suburb in which the hotel was located, while others left this afternoon for their homes, or for other winter resorts.

The loss is \$1,000,000. The insurance is \$550,000. There is the tact understanding that reconstruction will be begun at once, though there is no formal decision by the stockholders as yet. The hotel was a frame structure and while it burned rapidly, the guests left it in orderly manner and there was a remarkable absence of hysteria. The owners company is capitalized at \$300,000 and the stock is held in Augusta.

While the fire was in progress, residents in surrounding homes made most hospitable overtures to the fleeing guests to become guests in their homes. These citizens who had no rooms to offer were using automobiles to get the half-clad visitors to places of refuge. Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Straus, who have a cottage on The Hill, secured as guests Sir Ashley Sparks, of the Cunard Line, and Lady Sparks. Judge R. C. Dovett, president of the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific, and who lost much of his personal effects, proceeded to a downtown hotel and left during the afternoon in his private car for New York. John C. White, former lord mayor of Belfast, saved his personal belongings and is at a downtown hotel. Those of the visitors who did not secure accommodations are leaving the city, principally for foreign points.

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COAL COMPANIES MADE HUGE PROFITS IN 1920

Returns Show One or Two Companies Cleared Over 200 Per Cent Last Year. Higher Returns for Some Corporations.

Washington, Feb. 4.—Estimates of large profits made by one coal mining company during 1920 as put before the Senate committee considering the Calder coal regulation bill were extensively analyzed today in cross examination by Senator Reed Democrat, of Missouri.

David L. Wing, federal trade commission statistician, read operation returns of 51 companies from figures taken from the national Coal Association offices. These showed that one or two companies had cleared above 200 per cent last year, and only one as little as four per cent on its stated capital. Higher returns were reported in the case of corporations in the Pocahontas field of West Virginia, while one in central Pennsylvania earned 22 per cent and others in unstated locations, Mr. Wing reported had profits from 92 per cent to the lowest noted.

"None of these companies was selling coal for \$15 a ton, \$12 a ton, or even \$8 a ton, was it?" Senator Reed demanded.

"One of them was," Mr. Wing replied, and cited a West Virginia producer. "This company realized \$12.03 a ton for coal during August," he added.

"This was a small producer, wasn't it?" Senator Reed continued.

"We've been told the little ones got the high prices and I don't want to protect anybody if that isn't the truth."

"It produced more than 100,000 tons in 1920," Mr. Wing said. "That puts it in the second class of coal mines."

Senator Reed pointed out that other production records showed a million tons annual output from several mines, and suggested that the figures demonstrated that the smaller mines got the largest returns. Mr. Wing insisted, however, that the "estimates rebutted the conclusion that the smaller mines got the biggest prices for coal."

Notice of Election.

An election will be held on Feb. 23rd for the election of five trustees to manage the Wadsworth Poor School Fund. The law requires each trustee-elect to give a heavy bond. Polls viz.: Cross Hill managed by R. A. Austin. Mountville managed by M. B. Crisp. Milton managed by J. J. Young. Lisbon managed by A. R. Holmes. Confined to old Dunlap's Battalion. A. R. HOLMES, Secretary.

LISBON SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

First Grade: William Jacks. Third Grade: Pauline Corbett, Sara Jacks, Louise Knight, Tommie Martin. Sixth Grade: William Corbett, Charles Milam. Seventh Grade: Florence Madden. Linette Teague. Eighth Grade: Elberta Teague.

When Your Farm Stock Is Sick, Look For Rats

Disease among farm animals don't just happen. Rats are carriers of dangerous plagues—hog cholera, foot and mouth disease and that terrible of all scourges—Bubonic plague. Farmers should throw around premises RAT-SNAP. It's sure and safe. Three sizes, 35c, 85c, \$1.25. Sold and guaranteed by Laurens Hardware Co., Putnam's Drug Store, Kennedy Bros.



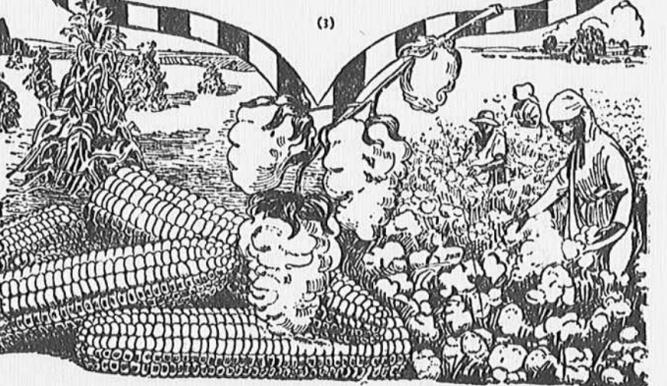
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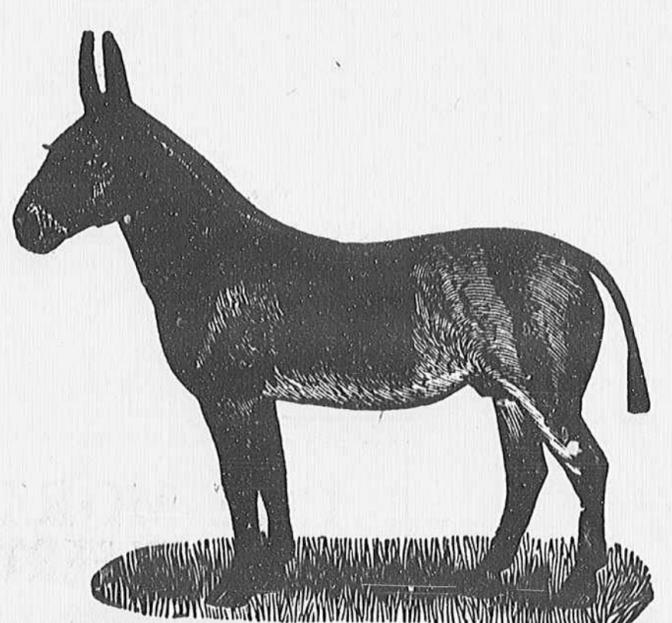
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