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THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

SUMMARY OF FACTS FROM SUPR. McMAHAN'S REPORT.

Compulsory Education Needed—The Present Facts and Figures Showing Why The Public Schools to be Paid the Teachers.

[The State, 4th.] State Superintendent of Education McMahan is hard at work now upon his annual report. His work has been much delayed by the failure of county superintendents to get in their reports or get them in arranged in proper form.

Mr. McMahan yesterday permitted the use of the general introductory summary which is full of interest:

STATISTICS. The statistical facts for the State, the counties and the districts are set forth in detail in the tables in part 11 of this report. Many of these data are only approximately accurate, but it is probable that the results presented this year are more accurate than any ever given before for this State. No pains have been spared in endeavoring to have errors corrected and omissions supplied, though unyielding insistence upon completeness has delayed the printing of the report.

Some points should be made and some lessons drawn here by reference to certain leading facts for this and other years. I had wished to make the comparisons for all the preceding years of our public school system, but must abandon this task for the present at least, since I find in the older reports so many omissions and contradictions, that unless great time could be given to studying the details and calculating the relative facts, comparisons would be misleading. I must, therefore, confine the statements to the facts of the last three years:

AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY PAID TEACHERS.

	1899	1900	1901
White.....	\$155.78	\$173.36	\$188.91
Negro.....	87.03	80.68	80.30

These facts although they indicate some improvement from year to year, should cause us shame. A more detailed study would indicate the impossibility of a teaching profession in some counties. Only a few illustrations will be here cited:

In Chesterfield the average salary of the white teachers was \$110.54; in Horry \$105.20; in Williamsburg \$102.55. Yet these salaries are an improvement over previous years.

Omitting the counties of Beaufort, Colleton, Kershaw, Saluda and Spartanburg, not reported.

Omitting the counties of Kershaw and Lancaster, not reported. Taking the counties that according to the report of 1898 paid their white teachers less than an average of \$100 a year, we may observe the development as follows:

AVERAGE SALARY OF TEACHERS FOR YEAR.

	1899	1900	1901
Chesterfield—			
White.....	\$95.69	\$55.12	\$110.64
Negro.....	50.80	35.64	47.24
Hampton—			
White.....	38.63	121.08	141.56
Negro.....	43.29	40.21	68.08
Horry—			
White.....	80.47	99.91	105.20
Negro.....	68.58	67.55	71.57
Lexington—			
White.....	88.06	115.26	173.25
Negro.....	29.57	29.26	51.61
Oconee—			
White.....	95.84		153.49
Negro.....	41.90		71.62
Pickens—			
White.....	82.96	155.56	150.16
Negro.....	48.03	65.10	74.23
Williamsburg—			
White.....	86.02	94.60	102.55
Negro.....	58.89	57.87	57.76

Bad as these figures are, they show some improvement. No county in the State now pays less than \$100 a year as an average to white teachers. But we must remember that these are merely averages, and that as some teachers in each county receive more, some less than the average.

Now let us observe the best. In 10 counties the average salary paid to white teachers last year was \$200 or more. The record of these for three years, is, therefore, here presented:

	1899	1900	1901
Anderson—			
White.....	\$161.28	\$159.38	\$289.13
Negro.....	73.92	108.00	113.67
Charleston—			
White.....	497.97	505.89	504.78
Negro.....	201.87	180.17	196.22

Richland—
White.....281.43 300.84 329.58
Negro.....158.80 160.00 164.20
Mr. McMahan here also quotes the figures for the counties of Fairfield, Greenwood, Laurens, Newberry, Orangeburg, Sumter and Beaufort.

Charleston bears the palm and Richland comes second.

Evidently to have an effective system of schools throughout the State, we need to spend at least twice what we now spend on teachers. Then the average salary for the teachers would be a little more for white teachers and a little less for negroes than in Richland at present. The figures would then be \$377.82 and \$160.80, and would be still far below the average in Charleston county. From such reflections we should have a larger and more solemn conception of what we need in the way of raising money for education.

NUMBER OF PUPILS TO TEACHERS.

The work required of the present force of teachers is somewhat indicated by the statement of average pupils to teachers. I shall summarize here these figures for the five counties that pay least and the five counties that pay most to white teachers:

	1899.	1900.	1901.
Chesterfield—			
White.....	41	39	43
Negro.....	58	55	53
Hampton—			
White.....	35	29	31
Negro.....	41	42	50
Horry—			
White.....	40	38	38
Negro.....	45	38	35
Pickens—			
White.....	35	58	53
Negro.....	24	48	43
Anderson—			
White.....	39	51	...
Beaufort—			
White.....	51	76	...
Negro.....	36	27	...
Charleston—			
White.....	71	58	...
Negro.....	103
Fairfield—			
White.....	27	27	...
Negro.....	72	67	...
Richland—			
White.....	32	33	...
Negro.....	68	88	...

LENGTH OF SESSIONS. The length of session is hardly so significant as the salary of teacher and the number of pupils taught by a teacher—the most vital facts in the efficacy of a school.

This has probably never been calculated with absolute accuracy for the entire State, and we know it we have practically no information as to the use that the children have made of the open school. Few have attended the entire time in one year. Still fewer have attended from year to year long enough to be greatly benefited.

Number of weeks:

	1899.	1900.	1901.
Schools for whites.....	19.24	20.54	21.17
Schools for Negroes.....	14.52	15.22	14.12

ENROLLMENT AND AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.

The enrollment represents attendance of ten days or more. It therefore gives little evidence of the number of children obtaining the benefit of the schools for the session. The average attendance on the other hand, if correctly recorded, calculated and reported, would be of great significance. Both are here given for the last three years:

	1899.	Enrolment.	Average attendance.
White.....	123,398	86,725	86,725
Negro.....	146,477	107,668	107,668
White.....	126,289	90,848	90,848
Negro.....	155,602	110,947	110,947
White.....	127,230	94,548	94,548
Negro.....	157,976	113,568	113,568

We have no means of knowing very definitely what proportion of children are attending school. The legal school age is from 6 to 21, but few of those near either limit will attend. The United States census report for 1900 gives the children of "school age" "from 5 to 20 inclusive."

Mr. McMahan then quotes the comparative figures from the census reports.

Allowing for students in colleges and private schools and for all boys

and girls over 16 years of age, we still should be alarmed at the number of children who do not attend school. Doubtless nearly all attend a short time during their lives, some one year and some another. But this this state of affairs is not to be tolerated.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

The time has come for us to consider the necessity of enacting a compulsory education law. The State cannot afford to permit children to grow up in ignorance. If parents are not alive to their duty, the intelligence and conscience of the State should be equal to the protection of these unfortunate children and of the social whole. A moderate law would yet be a great advance. It should require that every child between the ages of 8 and 12 attend school at least 12 weeks in the year. This law would insure only 36 weeks of schooling to each child, equal to one session of nine months. In this connection I call attention to the resolution of the State Teachers' association, and the very able address of Dr. B. F. Wilson on this subject, both of which are published in this volume.

THE AUGUSTA CONVENTION.

South Carolina Delegates Wanted at the Good Roads Gathering.

Chairman Wm. L. Eve of the Augusta local committee has written the governor as follows: "The Good Roads train of the Southern Railway company, under the management of Hon. W. H. Moore, president of the National Good Roads association, will visit Augusta Jan 20 to 25 next, inclusive. While here they will give a practical demonstration of the building of good highways. Realizing the necessity for the people in this section of Georgia, and that of South Carolina adjacent to commence the mending of their ways, we have called a convention to meet in Augusta on Jan. 23 and 24. I have been instructed to extend to you a most cordial invitation to be present, and ask that you will kindly appoint several delegates from each county in your State to be present. We have extended a like invitation and request to Gov. Chandler of this State. I assure you that our people would be delighted to have you present upon this occasion. Hoping that you will be able to attend and comply with this request," etc.

The governor will name a number of delegates in the next few days to attend this convention.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT BISHOPVILLE

Messrs. G. O. Rogers, J. B. Kelly and the Dispensary the Losers—Fire Originated in the Dispensary.

[Special to The State.]

Bishopville, Dec. 29.—A disastrous fire occurred here this morning about two o'clock. The large grocery store of G. O. Rogers, the dispensary and the store of J. B. Kelly were totally destroyed with all their contents. The fire was discovered in the dispensary but origin is unknown. These were all brick buildings erected a few years ago. J. B. Kelly's insurance on stock is \$2,500, on store \$1,000, loss \$5,000; G. O. Rogers' insurance on stock \$2,300, loss \$3,000. The dispensary and G. O. Rogers' store was the property of T. S. Joy of Sumter.

The stock of liquors in the dispensary was insured for \$1,500.

ROOSEVELT TO BE INVITED.

To a Young Negroes' Christian Conference in Atlanta.

Washington, Jan.—Rev. I. Garland Ponn of Atlanta, who had charge of the negro exhibit at the Atlanta exposition, today called upon President Roosevelt and arranged for the reception of delegates on Saturday, Jan. 18, who are to invite him to a young negroes' Christian conference in Atlanta next August, which is to consider the moral and spiritual training of young colored people. President Roosevelt told Mr. Ponn that he looked upon the movement to be promoted by the Atlanta congress with favor.

HOW TO GET GOOD ROADS.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS FAVORED FOR PUBLIC HIGHWAYS.

Mayor Tolly of Anderson, Regards the Recent Convention in Greenville as "In Many Respects the Most Important in This State Within Recent Years" and Expects the Good Work to Gather Momentum from the Coming Convention in Charleston.

To the Editor of the News and Courier:

I have read with much interest a recent article in your paper from Dr. D. A. J. Bell, of Parkville, concerning the Good Roads Convention held in Greenville and I would like to add some words of my own.

I regard the convention held in Greenville as having been in many respects the most important held in this State within recent years. It was important, not so much in point of immediate visible results, but on account of its aims and purposes and the ultimate good that will be accomplished, and on account of the representative class of men who were in attendance. The importance, the necessity, of good roads cannot be over-estimated by the people of the State, and it is hopeful and encouraging to see such an awakened and widespread interest being taken in the subject. It is very gratifying to see at Greenville such men as Gen. M. C. Butler, the Hon. A. T. Smythe, of Charleston; Mr. F. H. Hyatt, of Columbia; Ex-Governor Mauldin and Solicitor Ansel, of Greenville; the Hon. D. C. Heyward, of Walterboro; Congressman A. C. Latimer, and many county supervisors and municipal officers from different parts of the State—men of all classes of political opinions and of all walks or life—met together for a common purpose. I say it was an encouraging sign, and great and lasting good is bound to come out of it.

I think one of the most important actions of the Convention was the adoption of the resolution asking our Senators and Representatives in Congress to work for Federal appropriations for the improvement of public highways on the same plan that appropriations are now made for the improvement of rivers and harbors. It cannot be denied that good public highways are as necessary to the welfare and growth of the country as improved rivers and harbors, and that a vastly greater number of the people will be benefited thereby.

It may be argued by some that it would be too great an undertaking for the Government to go into the business of improving the public roads. Here are some facts that will completely answer this objection: When it was first proposed, some ten or fifteen years ago, to give the people of the country free mail delivery, such as enjoyed by the people of the cities the idea was laughed to scorn. It was declared that it would bankrupt the Government. Yet the rural mail delivery system is going into operation all over the country and wherever it has been tried it has been found to work successfully. There is but slight increase in the cost over the old system of having many country post-offices with the star route mail rider, and in some cases the cost is even less and the service is vastly improved. In Anderson County there are now something like twenty daily rural mail routes. There is no farmer in the county who lives further than two miles from a daily delivery route and he can have his mail delivered wherever he places his box, while the majority of the farmers have their mail delivered every day at their doors. I have not the exact figures at hand, but I am told that the system is practically self-sustaining and that the free delivery system, instead of being a burden, is really if anything over the old method.

I do not believe that Federal appropriations for public road improvements will prove at all burdensome, but that it will be the wisest possible expenditure of money. In addition to the good it will do in developing the interior of the country it will distribute some of the Government appropriations among a class of people who have never received any of the benefit of it and where it will do the most good. A small appropriation could be made for Federal road building, say in each county, and this, supplemented by State and county and possibly even township aid, would in a short time give to the people of this country such a system of public highways as the world has never seen.

I was greatly impressed with this scheme when it was proposed at Greenville and I have thought about it a great deal since. The more I think about it the more heartily in favor of it do I become. I believe it will meet with the approval of any man who will give it consideration. I hope The News and Courier and other papers of the State will take up the question and agitate it, and I want to see our Senators and Representatives in Congress comply with the resolution adopted at Greenville. I hope there will be a large attendance at the meeting of the Good Roads Convention which is to be held at Charleston on February 3. Every one who was at Greenville should go to Charleston and as many more as can possibly do so.

The question of good roads vitally concerns the whole State and if we will continue the good work commenced at Greenville much practical good can be accomplished.

Anderson.
G. F. Tolly.

Bachman Chapel and Union Academy Chaps

We promised some time ago that we would report in full the names with the amounts of all those who contributed toward buying the organ for Bachman Chapel church.

We first state that the organ has been bought, paid for and placed in the church. We have made several efforts to obtain all the lists so as we could verify our promise; not that we desire to make a public show or blow of it, but as we were placed on a committee to purchase the organ, we know of no better way of showing the appreciation of the members and how the money was applied than to make public acknowledgements with a full report.

We understand that there were six lists in circulation, but we have not been able as yet to receive but four. We learn that there is some objection to publishing the other two. If there is not we will be glad at any time to report them. Here is the list, each one separate:

MISS CARRIE WILSON'S LIST.

G. S. Enlow.....	\$ 50
R. H. Kibler.....	25
Thos. J. Wilson.....	1 00
M. L. Strauss.....	1 50
E. L. Strauss.....	25
Cash.....	25
W. W. Kinard.....	1 00
A. B. Piester.....	75
M. L. Kinard.....	50
D. E. Wilson.....	50
Nolen Epps.....	15
D. A. Livingstone.....	25
J. H. Summers.....	25
Cash.....	50
Cash.....	10
J. M. Johnstone.....	25
E. S. Werts.....	25
Mrs. Kate Beard.....	25
L. O. Griffin.....	15
Jno. M. Schumpert.....	1 00
E. H. Aull.....	25
Cash.....	25
J. M. Wilson.....	15
Total.....	\$10 00

MRS. CALLIE QUATTLEBAUM'S LIST.

Miss Chellie Kibler.....	\$ 10
Mrs. Carrie Crosson.....	25
Mrs. Amanda Bridges.....	25
A. B. Piester.....	25
J. K. Epps.....	1 00
M. L. Kinard.....	50
J. W. Bobb.....	50
Mrs. Nora Kibler.....	10
Cash.....	25
Mrs. Tommie Long.....	10
Miss Rosa Long.....	10
Rev. H. P. Counts.....	1 00
J. J. Slight.....	05
Mrs. Bettie Kinard.....	25
Mrs. Callie Quattlebaum.....	25
Total.....	\$ 4 00

MISS LOLA KIBLER'S LIST.

J. B. Bedenbaugh.....	\$ 50
Miss Grace Kinard.....	50
Jno. J. Kibler.....	1 00
E. M. Cook.....	50
Carral Shealy.....	50
Drayton B. Cook.....	50
Dr. W. T. Dickert.....	25
J. A. C. Kibler.....	25
L. H. Kinard.....	25
J. D. H. Kibler.....	22
J. W. Bobb.....	25
G. S. Bowers.....	25
Hamp Wicker.....	25
Nolen Epps.....	15
T. L. Kibler.....	10
Hamp Sease.....	10

Dr. R. C. Kibler.....	10
Elmer Werts.....	10
Eddie Shealey.....	15
Henry L. Kinard.....	25
Clinton Shealey.....	25
Total.....	\$ 6 45

MISS IDA KINARD'S LIST.

Rufus Livingstone.....	\$ 10
G. A. C. Wicker.....	25
Nora Troutman.....	10
J. C. Kinard.....	25
S. A. Rikard.....	50
Miss Ida Kinard.....	25
M. L. Kinard.....	22
S. J. Kinard.....	55
Total.....	\$ 1 95

Grand total.....\$23 65

The above shows us what a blessing those little donations amount to after they are all summed up together. We should always remember that those little calls are from God, and when we give we should take into consideration the spirit of the poor widow who gave her two mites and how it was accepted by Christ. He blesses those little gifts if they are given in a Christian spirit far above the abundance that is given for show. It matters not how poor and fallen, helpless and utterly undone we may be, there is always an opportunity or gift in our life, some capacity of heart or mind or will or voice or hand or some unknown capacity of faith or labor, which, if in humility and obedience is put into the hands of God he will gladly turn it into a river of blessings beyond all that the poor, helpless soul could ask or think. So give, dear Christians, always give to the Lord with the blessed assurance that it shall be given you in return.

Christmas passed off remarkably quiet throughout this section. No accidents. No rowdies of any kind to mar the pleasures of the people—this is what we call a good Christmas. The children's hearts were made glad by the usual expectations of the coming of old Santa Claus, while the larger ones enjoyed themselves in various ways. For fear of skipping some one, and giving place for them to feel slighted we have made a rule to omit the Christmas visiting.

More than a usual amount of moving is going on among our white people, which we will note later.

So far as we can learn the oats crop is pretty seriously injured by the recent freeze—the first sowing, except on very red land, is not yet too badly damaged to make a pretty fair crop, while the principal part of the November sowing is killed. The wheat is very slightly injured.

We learn that Dr. W. T. Dickert will go to Charleston next Sunday to finish up his graduating course at the Medical College. We suppose the doctor only lacks a small slice of getting the plums, which no doubt will add more to his name than his profession, but the way the world looks upon things now-a-days, a man must wear the name if he wants to gain the fame.

How many votes do you suppose a man would get in Newberry County if he was to announce himself a candidate for the House of Representatives, and it was generally known that he couldn't write his own name? We venture the assertion that cries of insanity would go up in every direction, regardless of how high his moral character and reputation stood. Then how did the people get along 50 years ago, when only about one-half of the members were able to write their names. This is not intended by any means as a lick at intellectual training, but we have thought for some time that this thing of education is being a little overestimated, if you don't think so—pop loose.

Most every man and woman who has any self-respect is seeking the nobilities of life. This is right, God knows, we love to see people with such ambitions. And I present the following as a help: "If you want to be wise, you must submit yourselves to become teachers; if you want to be mighty; you must learn to conquer yourselves; if you want to be rich, just be contented; if you want to be honored, you must honor others. There is plenty of people who will sneer at such little advice. But suppose just a few at least—try it. We can hardly tell how a plan will work until we have tried it all around.

It is almost time for our legislature to assemble again, then the fault-finders and critics will begin. We suppose that there is about one hundred newspapers published in the State. Almost every one will have several different laws to suggest, and if every fellow's plan don't receive some consideration, he will open up fire.

CHIPS.
January 2, 1902.

The custom of having a slow procession and quick recessional at weddings probably originated with some bride whose gown looked better in the back breadth than in the front.

OVER HALF MILLION TOTAL NET PROFIT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE'S LIQUOR BUSINESS.

The Schools Get Six Per Cent—The State Board Makes Its Report to the Governor—The Gross Profits Stated.

[The State, 2nd.]

Late last night the annual report of State board of directors of the dispensary for the year just closed was made public by the chairman of the board, Mr. L. J. Williams. It reads as follows:

To his Excellency, M. B. McSweeney, Governor of South Carolina: We have the honor to submit to you, for your information and also that of the general assembly, this our report of the business done by the dispensary during the fiscal year closing Nov. 30, 1901.

Examination of the various accounts attached hereto, will show that the total amount of cost of liquors, wines and beer, etc., purchased during the year has amounted to \$1,617,973.47, and that our gross sales have amounted to \$2,328,681.21 (exclusive of sales of fresh beer by beer dispensers).

The net profit (to the State) for account of the school fund is \$120,962.25. The net profits, that have accrued to the counties and towns, divided equally, are \$424,285.87, which