

**STORIES FROM THE CAPITAL.**

**SOME OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF GOV. BLEASE IN HIS NEXT MESSAGE.**

**Will Advocate Change in Constitution Allowing for Direct Election of All Judges—Thanksgiving Pardons and Paroles—Pardons Refused Recently—Hosiery Mill—Mill Merger Education Fund and Other Matters.**

Anderson Intelligencer.

Columbia, S. C., Nov. 11.—Governor Blease will, at the next session of the general assembly which convenes in January, advocate direct election of the judiciary in South Carolina. While official confirmation is not given for publication, it is known definitely from a source close to the Governor that direct election of judges will be urged by him in his annual message to the legislature.

From the chief justice of the supreme court to the circuit judges will be the recommendation stand, which means that in this State the Governor will ask that all judges be elected by the people. Should the recommendation be adopted 12 circuit judges and the five justices of the supreme court would be affected by the change.

The justices and judges are now elected by the general assembly. The justices are elected for ten years now since the recent change, adding another justice to the court. Before that time the supreme court justices were elected by the legislature for eight years. There are four associate justices and a chief justice as follows: Chief Justice: Eugene B. Gary, of Abbeville; Associate Justices: C. A. Woods, of Marion; R. C. Watts, of Cheraw; T. B. Fraser, of Sumter; D. E. Hydrick, of Spartanburg. The justices receive \$3,000 the year.

There are twelve circuit judges whose terms are four years, but to be a judge in this State is practically a life time job. In recent years, however, several judges have resigned. Judge R. O. Purdy, of Sumter, resigned a few years ago to resume his law practice in Sumter which he probably found would pay him more. Judge R. E. Copes, of Orangeburg, elevated to the bench during the 1910 session of the general assembly, resigned a few months ago. Chief Justice, Ira B. Jones, resigned at the last session of the general assembly to make the race for Governor for which he was defeated by Cole L. Blease.

In order for the change from election by the legislature to election by the people, of the judiciary, a constitutional amendment, or set of amendments, will be necessary. The general assembly would have to pass a bill embodying the Governor's recommendation by a two-thirds vote and the matter would then have to be submitted to the people in a general election and if the people likewise vote to accept the change it would then be ratified by the general assembly before becoming law. This is the method of amending the State constitution.

Should the people and the general assembly favor the change, judges would thereafter be elected just as governors, members of the house and every other State and county officer are now named and that is in the Democratic primaries in South Carolina.

Doubtless, the first argument that would be advanced in the general assembly against direct election of judges would be "that will put the matter into politics." Of course, that would be true to an extent. But, on the other hand, advocates of direct election of judges would advance the statement that legislative elections is "in politics" and would add: "If you don't believe it go into the halls of the legislature during an election by the house and senate and see for yourself." Those who favor the direct election of judges would urge that the people should have a direct say-so in the selection of the judiciary that is to try all cases, civil and criminal and would further ask with evident finality: "Why not" which, when it comes to such matters, is indeed a question that can hardly be answered.

At any rate Governor Blease is positively going to embody such a recommendation in his annual message to the assembly. It is further believed that if there is any alignment on the matter it will be in this wise: "The lawyers will oppose the change and the laymen will favor it."

A few weeks ago The Intelligencer printed the exclusive story that the pardon board had recommended a parole for Charles Gaines, of Oconee, who is serving a life term for murder. Recently the supreme court affirmed Louis Cantrell's sentence and Governor Blease will not parole Gaines. "If Cantrell must stay Gaines should also stay," said the Governor. So the parole papers of Charles Gaines went the route of "those refused." In the batch of refusals were a number of

cases of great interest to other parts of the State but the Gaines case was the only one of extreme importance in the Anderson-Oconee section.

A case of state-wide interest upon which the Governor will likely act in a few days is that of W. H. Mills, of Cherokee, who was serving a life term for killing a brother of A. M. Deal, of Columbia. Mills came to the penitentiary in 1907, and, therefore, has served about five years. I well remember the day he entered the penitentiary for I happened to be in the main office when he was brought into the prison. An interview was secured from him for one of the papers I represented and Mills, in tears and with broken voice, told the details of the killing. He claimed that Deal had sought the affections of his wife.

The pardon board has recommended for Mills a parole and Governor Blease will grant it. It will probably come in the list of Thanksgiving pardons.

Following a pretty custom, Governor Blease, it is expected, will give some of the convicts at the State penitentiary and on the county gangs, Thanksgiving "presents," said presents being their freedom, not their "presence" in the pen or on the gangs. The Governor has a list of fifty prisoners whose release from prison has been advocated by the pardon board after hearings. A large number were refused recommendations of clemency by the board.

The list of those who will go Thanksgiving day will probably reach 25 and about the same number or a few less will be released Christmas time.

The meritorious cases have been allowed to accumulate so all who are to be released can be let out either at Thanksgiving or at Christmas.

It is worthy of passing note here that a like custom obtained here in Columbia at recorder's court on Christmas day. I am not sure that the plan is used now. On Christmas day all petty offenders were released from custody.

In this and other States Thanksgiving releases have been made and it is known that Governor Blease will release some of the prisoners for whom the pardon board has recommended paroles or pardons, on that day and on Christmas. Most of the cases do not involve long sentences and a few are for minor offenses.

In the list of refusals recently made, following the sessions of the pardon board are, the Charles Gaines case, referred to above; the John J. Jones case, sent up from Branchville, Jones being sentenced to ten years and a month for the killing of Abe Fearlstone; the John Y. Garlington case, Garlington being sentenced to three years for breach of trust with intent to defraud, being president of the "Seminole Securities Co." Young, secretary of the company, is now out on parole. Garlington's case was considered and a refusal is the result of the efforts at pardon. Into the batch of refusals the case went Saturday. There are other interesting cases in those finally refused by the Governor, but these are the ones of State-wide importance.

The hosiery mill fight will be resumed at the approaching session of the general assembly. It is known that Governor Blease will in his annual message again ask the legislature to take some action toward abolishing the mill which is termed by the Governor "tubercular mill."

Practically since he has been in office Governor Blease has made a fight on the hosiery mill at the penitentiary. Here are confined the more desperate of the convicts and they are made to manufacture hosiery under a contract with John Graham, a citizen of Columbia. Up to a year before last Mr. Graham had a twenty year contract which expired then. A renewal of the contract for five years was then had with better terms for the State. At the time the Governor Blease asked that the mill be abolished but the board announced it could not do anything toward breaking the contract and an opinion from the attorney general sustained the board. Then the battle was waged in the general assembly. The legislature did not act. Later on a committee was appointed to investigate the matter and report terms. Mr. Graham offered to cancel the contract if the State of South Carolina would give him the State dispensary building. That building recently sold for \$125,000. He made another offer, but nothing was done.

The hosiery mill matter has been fully discussed in the press of the State and most people know of the fight that has been made.

At the coming session in Governor Blease's annual message will be a statement as to the hosiery mill which he will ask the general assembly to abolish. The Governor desires that those who work in the hosiery mill be given work in the open air. His suggestion was that they be employed on some of the State buildings such as on the asylum work now in progress and on other State contracts. What the general assembly will do, remains to be seen.

Governor Blease will again endeavor

to break up the Parker Cotton Mills corporation known as the "mill merger." He believes that the merger is to be used for depressing the price of cotton and for the injury of labor and he will make every effort to have the merger declared null and void and the mills separated.

This, too, was one of the battles at the last session of the general assembly, the senate refusing to pass the resolution as to an investigation of the merger. Lewis W. Parker, of Greenville, appeared before the committee here.

Few people know that today the new general assembly assumed office. So says the constitution of our State. From and after today the new members of the general assembly will be consulted by the Governor in matters of appointment, in lieu of the former members. The constitution provides that the newly elected members of the general assembly shall take office Monday following the general election which is today.

Governor Blease will recommend to the general assembly better equipment for the country schools of this State. The Governor is of the opinion that the higher schools of learning are receiving too much to the detriment of the country schools. He will advocate an extra tax of one mill for the purpose of improving the country schools. This will go to these schools in the country exclusively.

There is a wild scramble here for the job now held by Mr. Ernest Cochran, of Anderson. Among those prominently mentioned for the position of district attorney are: J. Fraser Lyon, attorney general of South Carolina; J. William Thurmond, who is a former solicitor and was campaign manager of Judge Jones; A. H. Dagnall, of Anderson, who is well known as an attorney; F. H. Weston, of this county, who is State senator. Tillman's ear is being sought for. It is conceded that the senior senator will have much to do with the appointment.

In Columbia all one hears now is talk about federal patronage. As always folks in this city are laying wires for certain jobs. Columbia is, by the way, after getting Woodrow Wilson here to make this city his winter home.

I have heard a number of prominent men say that they would be glad to see Mr. Ernest Cochran retain his position as district attorney.

**"SYDNA ALLEN SHOT ME."**

**Last Statement of Martyred Massie Repeated by Physician at Trial of Clansman.**

Wytheville, Va., Nov. 13.—"Sydna Allen shot me."

That was the dying declaration of Judge Thornton L. Massie, testified Dr. C. B. Knuckols today in the trial of Allen for the murder of the justice. Dr. Knuckols attended the wounded jurist after the Hillsville court house tragedy and in addition to telling Judge Massie's last words he described the wounds received by others in the affair.

The chief new evidence was given today by Frank Fowler, a deputy sheriff of Carroll county, who said he saw Sydna Allen advancing up the steps leading to Judge Massie's seat and that Allen fired twice at the half prostrate form of the dying man.

Nine witnesses had been examined when court adjourned for the day. All agreed that the trouble began when Floyd Allen, brother of the prisoner, already sentenced to die, defied the sheriff to take charge of him. Several witnesses said the first shots came from the corner of the room in which Sydna Allen was standing.

**MISSIONARY INSTITUTE MEETING.**

**Number of Interesting Talks Made at Meeting in Wedgfield Wednesday.**

The Sumter County Woman's Missionary Institute met at Wedgfield Wednesday and held a very interesting session. Several interesting talks along lines of missionary work were made by persons present and the meeting was most profitable in every way. Thursday the meeting will be held in Bishopville, and it was held in Manning on Tuesday.

Those to make talks at the meeting were Rev. Mr. Hammond of St. Charles, Rev. Dr. Lexington of Bishopville, Rev. A. R. Woodson of Manning, and others. A beautiful prayer was made by Mrs. Louis DesChamps.

Some of those who attended the meeting of the institute from here were: Mesdames J. P. Marion, R. S. Hood, J. H. Chandler, Henry McLaurin, E. W. McCallum, and Misses Lillian Wilson and Helen McLaurin.

A bountiful dinner was served by the people of Wedgfield during the day which came as one of the features of the day.

The work on the Parrott Milling Company building is going ahead. Excavations have been made and the workmen are now engaged on the walls.

**ASSASSINATED RULERS.**

**Every Country of the World Has Had Its Experience.**

Assassination has always been one of the dangers to which personages prominent in the political world, have been particularly exposed, and hardly any country can boast itself free from that crime.

Abraham Lincoln, the first of the three American presidents to be murdered, was assassinated as he was celebrating the triumph close of the Civil war. On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, just as the north was rejoicing at the end of the long struggle with the South, he attended Ford's theater in Washington to see a performance of "Our American Cousin." An actor, John Wilkes Booth, crept to the back of his box after the curtain had risen and shot him from behind. Then, leaping on the stage, he brandished a dagger, shouted "Sic semper tyrannis!" and escaped through the stage door. Lincoln was carried across the street to a small house and died there at 7 o'clock the next morning. At the same time an attempt was made to assassinate Secretary Seward in his own house.

The next president to be slain was James A. Garfield. On July 2, 1881, a few months after his inauguration, Charles J. Guiteau, a disappointed office seeker, shot him down in the Baltimore and Potomac railway station in Washington. The avowed purpose of the assassin was to secure the succession of Vice President Arthur, who, he believed, would be more favorably disposed to the "Stalwart" wing of the Republican party. Garfield lingered for more than two months. He was taken from Washington to Elberon, N. J., and died there on September 19.

William McKinley fell a victim to the doctrines of anarchy. Like Lincoln he had been re-elected and seemed to be about to inaugurate a new and important policy in regard to foreign commercial relations. He went to Buffalo to speak at the Pan-American exposition, and there, as he was holding a reception, he was shot down by Czolgosz. The man approached him in the line of citizens, holding a revolver concealed by a handkerchief. As he reached the president, apparently intending to shake his hand, he fired with fatal effect. McKinley was carried to a near-by house, and lived for eight days after his wound.

Foreign countries have had their full share of such assassinations as these, and in many cases death has overtaken a ruler on a State occasion, when he was making a public progress to perform an important function.

So, on March 21, 1881, the Czar Alexander II of Russia, was blown to pieces by a bomb as he was on his way to the winter palace. He had been distinguished by his liberal views and his desire to ameliorate conditions in his empire, but he was struck down through a conspiracy of nihilists. So, too, a few years ago, a plot in the army caused an artillery salute in honor of the present czar to take the form of a discharge of loaded pieces directly in the direction of the imperial household.

President Carnot of France was the only head of a foreign republic beside President Borda Idiarte of Uruguay, to be assassinated of late years. He met his death in Lyons at the hands of an Italian anarchist, Caserio, who killed him on June 24, 1894. He had gone to the exhibition of arts and sciences, and had been enthusiastically greeted on the way. Just as he stepped into his carriage on his departure from the building, Caserio sprang upon the step, waving a paper as though it were a petition. The guards permitted him to approach the president, and he drew a dagger and stabbed him in the body. The wound was mortal, and Carnot died the next day.

One of the most terrible of political assassinations was that of King Alexander and Queen Draga of Serbia on June 11, 1903. That little kingdom had been torn with internal strife, and King Milan had been forced to abdicate in favor of his son. Alexander believed in drastic measures, and in a country seething with revolutionary and liberal feeling attempted to make the power of the crown more and more absolute. In particular he offended his subjects by his marriage.

On the evening of June 10, 1903, a military conspiracy came to a head. A number of officers forced their way into the palace, aided by their comrades, who were supposed to be on guard. They reached the royal chamber and were faced by King Alexander with his queen in his arms. They demanded his immediate abdication. He refused, and immediately a storm of bullets fell on the royal pair. They were shot down and the throne was given to Peter of the house of Karageorgevitch, the present reigning monarch.

The assassination of King Humbert of Italy on July 29, 1900, on the other hand, was inspired by anarchistic feeling. A band of anarchists with

headquarters in Paterson, N. J., selected Angelo Bresci to slay the king, who had already, three years before, been exposed to anarchistic bullets. The king went to Monza to present the prize at a gymnastic competition. No special danger was feared, and no particular precautions were taken; but as he was leaving the hall and stepping into his carriage, Bresci fired three times, one of his shots finding lodgment in the king's heart.

King Carlos of Portugal and the Crown Prince Luis fell victims to a revolutionary conspiracy on February 1, 1908. The kingdom had been in a ferment for some time with the republican feeling which led a year or two ago to the abolition of the monarchy. The royal family had been at Villa Vicosa, and it was known that they were about to return to their palace in Lisbon. As they drove through the streets the conspirators opened fire upon them with carbines. The king and the crown prince fell dead, but Queen Amelia and prince, now ex-King Manuel, escaped.

Of all the assassinations of crowned heads there has been a very large number. Even so beloved a sovereign as Queen Victoria was exposed three or four times to the shots of would-be murderers, who were generally thought to have been insane. King Edward was the victim of an attack while traveling in Belgium. But the most sensational assault on royalty was committed upon King Alfonso of Spain and his bride, the Princess Victoria of England, as they were driving home after their marriage ceremony. A bomb was thrown at the royal procession, and the carriage in which the newly married pair was driving was so badly shattered that they were forced to complete their journey in another, but neither the king nor queen was injured.

Of attempts to assassinate crowned heads there has been a very large number. Even so beloved a sovereign as Queen Victoria was exposed three or four times to the shots of would-be murderers, who were generally thought to have been insane. King Edward was the victim of an attack while traveling in Belgium. But the most sensational assault on royalty was committed upon King Alfonso of Spain and his bride, the Princess Victoria of England, as they were driving home after their marriage ceremony. A bomb was thrown at the royal procession, and the carriage in which the newly married pair was driving was so badly shattered that they were forced to complete their journey in another, but neither the king nor queen was injured.

**CORN CULTURE IMPROVES.**

**Plenty of Room Left for Betterment of Farming Methods.**

Only in one way was the National Bank Circular for August right in deducing from this year's yield of corn per acre in the United States the conclusion that the last 30 years have brought no improvement in the cultivation of that crop, says The New York Times. Taking the whole crop together the deduction seems and is true, but it ignores the important fact that even in the broad view the acre yield has been maintained for this long period, and such would not have been the case had there not been a general adoption of methods better than the old one.

The method consisted merely in utilizing the natural fertility of new land and moving on to other new land when that was exhausted. We have done better than that, and some of us much better. Corn is one of the cereals that has been the subject of intelligent and careful study in recent years, and whoever will can now buy "pedigree seed" that is sure to yield larger returns than that secured in the former fashion, which was by picking out the biggest and best formed ears.

Such specimen ears, it is known, are often produced by strains that do not raise large crops per acre, the ears being as few as fine. The "pedigree seed" is selected on a wholly different principle, and is the result of just such an effort to secure certain congenies of desirable qualities as is made by the breeders of horses, cows, sheep, pigs, hens and dogs.

This much, at least, has been gained in the 30 years and the number of farmers availing themselves of the advantage is steadily though slowly increasing. The old fellows don't learn because they can't, but the young ones can and do. Corn, which is a wide cross-fertilizer, is not bred to strain as easily as are the smaller grains like wheat and oats, and that perhaps accounts for the comparative slowness of its improvement.

**Amageddon.**

The name as used in Revelations 16:16 is probably derived from Megiddo, an important Canaanite fortress in Issachar (Joshua 12:21) placed by most writers at Legio west of the plain of Esdraelon. The association of Megiddo with the many battles, e. g. the defeat of the Canaanites by Barak, of the Gibeonites by Midian, of Saul by the Philistines, and of Josiah by the Egyptians, probably suggested it as the scene of the culminating conflict between good and evil referred to in the Apocalypse. (Nelson's Encyclopaedia.)

**OLD-TIME NAVAL VICTORY.**

**American Gunners Have Always Been Good Marksmen.**

We hear a great deal about the superiority of the American naval gunners these days. Five bull's eyes in a minute with a twelve-inch gun, a 1,250-pound shell on a seven-mile range, are common.

It has always been so. And just 100 years ago today—October 25, 1812—occurred one of the most striking illustrations in the nation's history of that superiority—the defeat of the British forty-nine gun frigate Macedonian, by the American fifty-four gun frigate United States. It was, perhaps, the most memorable naval battle of our most memorable war.

The United States, commanded by Stephen Decatur, of Tripoli fame, was cruising along the African coast near the Canary Islands. October 25, 1812, was Sunday, and the crew was preparing to muster for church services.

"Sail ho!" came the lookout's cry from the cross-trees far aloft.

A few minutes later and the stranger was made out as a British frigate. The long, sonorous roll of the drummer's church call broke into the sharp pitched beat of arms. Decatur put about and warily approached his rival.

Captain Carden, of the Macedonian, mistook the United States for the Essex, an inferior ship. Eight men of his crew were impressed American seamen. They asked to be excused from fighting their countrymen. He savagely ordered them back to their gun stations.

The Americans went into the fight confident of victory. Jack Creamer a young cabin boy, went to Captain Decatur and asked to have his name inscribed on the muster roll before the battle.

"Why?" asked the captain. "So I can draw my share of the prize money, sir" the boy replied.

Captain Carden planned the engagement for the Essex. He opened fire at long range, a mile in those days. His shot fell short and Decatur turned loose a broadside from his heavy guns. A dozen or more solid shot crashed into the Macedonian, a forceful tip to Carden of his mistake.

First the Macedonian's mizzen mast went by the board, then foretop and main top rattled to the deck, the falling debris burying a whole gun's crew.

The United States was enveloped in smoke from its own guns. A continual stream of flame came from the gun ports. Carden thought his enemy was afire.

Seeing the enemy disabled, Decatur drew out of range for repairs. He took no chances to having a couple of British seventy-four-gun frigates finding him crippled. Hope came to the British. A report spread that an English sail had appeared.

About noon that hope was dispelled. Decatur came back and maneuvered across the Macedonian's bow preparatory to a broadside and diagonal fire that would sweep every piece of gear from the Englishman's deck. Carden saw his plight and struck his colors.

In the afternoon Decatur went aboard to look at his prize. The scene appalled even his eye accustomed to carnage and blood. He wrote in his report to congress:

"Fragments of dead were scattered in every direction. The decks were slippery with blood and the cry of the wounded was one agonizing yell. A scene so horrible, of my fellow creatures, I assure you, deprived me of very much of the pleasure of victory."

When Captain Carden formally offered his sword, Decatur declined it. "No sir," he said, "I cannot receive the sword of a man who has so bravely defended his ship. But I will take your hand."

Two of the eight impressed Americans were part of the 104 dead and dying men on the decks of the Macedonian. Some had been thrown overboard to stop their suffering. On the United States only 12 men had been touched and more than half of those were only slightly injured. — Kansas City Times.

The oat crop of Sumter county next spring—provided the weather is favorable during the winter for the growth of the oats—will be the largest on record. The largest acreage ever sown in Sumter county has been put in and the preparation of the land has been exceptionally thorough. Farming methods and practice are improving each year as the result of the farm demonstration work and the more intelligent interest that is being taken in the practical side of scientific agriculture.

Sibert's Drug Store will have a double front shortly, one on Main and one on Liberty street, when work is completed on an addition to the present building used by the store. The old Hogan Meat Market stand will be annexed to the present quarters of the store.