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GOVERNOR McSWEENEY'S SECOND ANNUAL MESSAGE

Reviews Conditions in South Carolina and Recommends Legislation Deemed Desirable

Gentlemen of the General Assembly:

It is gratifying to me to welcome you as the representatives of the people under such favorable conditions. You come as the first Legislature to assemble in South Carolina in the new century. The nineteenth century has been one of marked progress and development in all the arts and sciences, and it contains lessons which we may learn with profit to ourselves and which may be of use to us in legislating for the future. Those who constituted the first Legislature one hundred years ago little dreamed of the advance in all lines of industry and of the discoveries and inventions which have signalized the century just passed into history. We cannot realize or even conceive the advances that will be made during this century upon which we are entering. There seems to be almost no limit to the achievements of the human mind. It is for us to contribute our part to make the world better and happier by our having lived in it and to leave to our children a goodly heritage and a name untarnished. It is your privilege to meet and to counsel with one another and to consider and enact such laws as will be of benefit not only to the present but to the future growth and development of this great old Commonwealth.

The march of material progress and the development of the State, to which I had the pleasure to refer one year ago in greeting the members of the Legislature, has kept up with steady and sure step. The business depression through which the people had passed and which was almost unprecedented seems to have been followed by a revival which is touching all branches of industry. The increased price which our farmers have received for their staple crop makes large amends for the falling off in the yield. Our farmers are learning the importance of diversified farming and in consequence are becoming more independent.

You need no better evidence of the progress and prosperity of the State than that presented in the figures contained in the annual report of the Secretary of State. From this report it will be seen that approximately fifteen million dollars were invested the past year in South Carolina companies; and while a large proportion of it is in cotton and rice, the remainder is in other lines of industry.

But the progress is not only in the material but in the intellectual. We now lead all Southern States in the manufacture of cotton goods and are second only to Massachusetts in the number of spindles, and at the present rate of progress will soon lead all the States in the Union in this important branch of industry. It is important to keep this fact in mind as you deliberate.

Taxable values have increased \$4,245,695 during the past year, as will be seen from the Comptroller General's report, but the increase is not near as large as it should be or would be if our system of assessment and taxation were so revised and amended as to have placed on the tax books all the property of the State now escaping taxation and if that which is assessed were equitably assessed.

Peace and good order have characterized our people during the past year. We have not been visited by plague or pestilence and no report of mob violence has marred the record or stained the fair name of the State, though in one or two cases the strong arm of the military had to be called into requisition, but the majesty of the law was maintained and no blood was shed. In one case there was strong provocation for summary justice, but with the assistance of the military the culprits were protected, lawlessness was prevented, and through the ordinary channels of the courts stern justice will be administered and the penalty paid.

You as the chosen representatives of the people should guard with jealous eye their interests and welfare which have been committed to your keeping, remembering always the responsibility which rests upon you.

The governor next reviewed the financial condition of the State which was shown to be excellent as evidenced by the fact that the treasurer had to borrow no money. He also spoke with pleasure of the satisfactory settlement of the claim of the United States against the State. The Blue Ridge railroad bonds, which amount to \$37,000 and are a part of the State's debt, were recommended paid.

Speaking of the State's educational prosperity, Governor McSweeney said:

Encouraging reports come from the schools and colleges of our State, indicating that they have entered upon an era of unexampled prosperity. And yet much remains to be done to increase the efficiency of our public schools. The first essential is teachers of high moral character and adequate professional preparation. Our teachers have not hitherto been prepared for professional training as ever before, and they show a higher average of intelligence and professional fitness; but they are too often poorly paid for their services, and the best results cannot be expected until the schools, instead of advertising for bids from teachers, offer

adequate pay and demand good qualifications.

The importance of levying an additional tax for the support of the country schools cannot be too strongly urged upon our people. This will enable them to employ competent teachers for longer terms; it will enable them to give their children elementary and preparatory training at home; and it will tend to check the abnormal flow of population from the country to the town; it will be beneficial from every point of view. While it is possible for the graded schools to become too mechanical and inelastic, the irregularity in attendance at the country schools renders it impossible to have graded instruction or systematic work. Since the State offers free education in order that its people may be fitted for the duties of citizenship, it is worthy of consideration whether, within proper limits of term and age, it should not require attendance at the schools.

He seconded the suggestion made in State Superintendent McMahan's report providing for a more efficient county supervision. He also recommended the placing of the department of education on an equal basis with the other departments by providing enlarged quarters for the State superintendent's office.

In regard to the dispensary, Governor McSweeney said:

The dispensary has been well managed during the past year, as the statement of the board of directors and the State commissioner, which will be submitted to you, will show.

The dispensary system and the management of the liquor question have occupied much of the attention of each Legislature since the system was inaugurated. The dispensary has also been an issue in every campaign in the State since it was passed and has been more strongly opposed possibly than any other law that was ever placed upon the statute books of this State. Every argument that could be brought to bear against it has been presented by some of the ablest intellects of the State, and yet after a thorough canvass of each county and a presentation of the case to the people the system has been endorsed by decided majorities on four different occasions and the principle is incorporated in our organic law.

Under the constitution the Legislature may license individuals or corporations to sell under the rules and regulations governing the dispensary.

The present system, as it may be improved from time to time, is the best solution yet devised, and is growing in public favor; much of the prejudice that has existed against the law is being removed, and many of those who oppose the system are in favor of the enforcement of the law. As public sentiment grows in its favor it will be easier to enforce it. The mayors and intendents of the towns and cities of the State, in response to a circular which I issued during November, state that the law is well enforced and that the sentiment of the towns is for a strict enforcement. The exceptions are the cities of Columbia and Charleston and a few counties in which the sale of whiskey is prohibited by law. In fact in those counties in which no dispensaries are established it would conduce to a better enforcement of law and there would be less illicit sale of whiskey if dispensaries were established. In the cities named the dispensary cannot be rigidly enforced so long as public sentiment upholds violators of the law and grand juries fail to find true bills and petit juries to convict when cases are made and the evidence furnished. As public sentiment grows in favor of the law in these cities and the prejudice against it dies away convictions for violations will be had and it can then be more rigidly enforced.

As a rule, however, the law has been well enforced, and it has been with a small constabulary force but with the aid of the municipal officers. All law is violated. If there were no violators of law and this were an ideal country there would be no need of law or courts to try and punish offenders. The United States government with its illimitable resources has failed to stop all violations of the revenue laws.

It has become customary for county dispensers to sell to any one who applies to purchase without being identified or without signing the application "in his own true name and signature" and without stating "for whom or whose use it is required." Ample provision is made for the course to be pursued for violations in the administration of the law. The county dispensers are responsible to the county boards of control and they are appointed by the

State board of directors on the recommendation and with the advice and consent of the senator and representatives from each county. That brings the case right up to the door of the members of the General Assembly.

I again commend to you the advisability of abolishing the county boards of control and of devolving their duties upon the mayors or intendents of the towns, and the county supervisors of the counties, in which dispensaries are located. The towns and counties are directly interested in the proper management of local dispensaries, and the duties thus imposed would not be onerous. I also recommend that county dispensers be elected by the people as other county officers are elected, for a term of two years. They would then be responsible to the people for a proper conduct of the business placed in their hands.

From the report of the State board of directors it will be seen that the net profit to the school fund from the business for the past year, after expenses are paid is \$176,012.18, and to the towns and counties, \$298,166.28. This report covers eleven months, as the fiscal year has been changed so as to close November 30.

In dealing with this question I feel sure that you will be guided by a love for your State and an earnest purpose and a sincere desire to do that which will be for the best interests of the greatest number, and not be actuated by prejudice or partisanship.

On the subject of local legislation, his excellency had the following to say: "In my last annual message I directed the attention of the Legislature to the inhibition contained in the constitution against the passage of local or special laws concerning certain subjects, and called their attention to the expense and evils of such legislation. I desire again to call your attention to this subject, and also to a recent decision of our Supreme Court, which has declared one of these local laws unconstitutional. The Court in delivering its opinion on this subject in this particular case says: 'In order that a law may be general it must be of force in every county in the State, and while it may contain special provisions making its effect different in certain counties, these counties cannot be made exempt from its entire operation.' It has been the custom of the Legislature in many instances to pass a general law and then add a proviso exempting certain counties from its operations. Almost every county in this State is an independent republic, with a separate and distinct county government law, and at almost every session of the Legislature changes and amendments are made, so that it is difficult to know just what the law is in any county."

A geological survey the governor suggested as a great need of the State, commenting in part as follows:

The mineral industries of this State are receiving considerable attention, and a good survey would undoubtedly prove of incalculable help and encouragement. The State of South Carolina is by no means deficient in mineral wealth, but just what unexplored treasures it holds can never be known unless an intelligent, vigorous, authorized survey be made. Aside from the resultant monetary value of such survey, facts and statistics would be placed in the hands of the people that would enable them to recognize and utilize much natural resources not now even known to be in existence. An impetus would be given to mineralogical and geological study and work in our schools and colleges, where as yet they are considered rather insignificant and of minor consequence; and the coming generation be prepared to take an active personal interest in the development of their native State along this line as they now are interested in its mercantile, and agricultural, and manufacturing progress. The United States Government furnishes any State as much additional money toward State surveys as such States themselves put into the work—in most cases considerably more—and the question of State expenditures or increased State tax could not, therefore, conflict with popular desire.

The following recommendation in regard to boards of health was made:

I would also suggest and recommend that the board of health of each county, town, or city be subordinate to the State board of health; and it should be made the duty of the health officers of these local boards to report such facts and statistics as may be required under instruction from, and in accordance with, blanks furnished by the State board; and it should be the duty of such boards to enforce all rules and regulations issued by the State board for the preservation of the public health, and for the prevention of endemic, epidemic and contagious diseases. The State board of health should have power to remove health officers of any of these local boards for failure to keep a record of these statistics, make reports, answer letters of inquiry concerning the health of the people, and likewise a fine should be imposed for neglect of duty. If such powers were granted to the State board of health it would be a comparatively easy matter to suppress smallpox in any of the towns of the State.

There is no more important subject to command your thoughtful attention and to demand wise legislation than the preservation of the health and lives of the people. If a State board of health is to be maintained and an appropriation made for its operations, authority should be given it to use this

fund to the best interests of the people. The governor's message was concluded as follows:

I have thus endeavored to review briefly the different departments of the State government, and to make such suggestions as have seemed to me to be proper and demanding your attention. In expediting the business that shall come before you I am ready to give you such assistance and cooperation as may be in my power. I trust that your session may be a pleasant and harmonious one, and that in your deliberations you may be guided by an earnest and sincere desire to do those things which shall redound to the advancement and happiness of the people whom you have the honor to represent.

M. B. McSWEENEY, Governor.

In addition to the above the governor's message also contained the following recommendations:

That a law be passed regulating child labor in mills.

That the State continue to own its farms and work them with convict labor.

That the hiring of convicts be discontinued.

That the \$24,500 asked for the South Carolina Institution for the Deaf and Blind for the purpose of improvements be granted.

That the present appropriation of \$100,000 for pensions be continued.

That the voluntary troops of the State militia be liberally provided for.

That one or two additional circuit judges be elected so as to discontinue the special courts.

That the two amendments to the constitution voted on at the last election be made.

That an insurance examiner be appointed.

BRYANT AND LONGTOWN

Death of Mrs. Seigler—College Boys and Girls Return.

It is with feelings of profound sorrow that we announce the death of Mrs. Martha Seigler, which occurred at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Jenkins, in Columbia, on Friday, the 6th inst.

The deceased had been in a declining state of health for some time, but was not thought to be seriously ill until a short while before her death. She was quite an old lady, having reached the age of three score years and seven. She was a worthy woman, a devoted mother and a Christian.

The funeral services were conducted in a very touching and impressive manner.

Mrs. Seigler has five children who survive her, viz: Mrs. Sain and Mrs. Wolfe, of Orangeburg; Mrs. Jenkins, of Columbia; Mr. J. W. Seigler, of Winnsboro; and Mr. Wm. J. Seigler, of Longtown.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved ones in this their great affliction.

Miss Fannie L. Ford, the popular and efficient teacher of the Upper school, returned from her home on Saturday whether she had gone to spend the holidays. School will reopen today.

Miss Nettie Brice, who has had charge of the Lower School, has decided not to return. We have not heard as yet who will succeed her.

Miss Jennie Gladden is visiting relatives at Winnsboro.

Mr. Laban Bush, of Hopkins, is visiting at Mr. D. W. Tidwell's.

Mr. David Smith, of Sumter, is visiting his father and mother, Mr. F. and Mrs. D. G. Smith.

Miss Nannie Tidwell, who has been visiting relatives at Hopkins, has returned home.

Mr. R. N. Reeves has returned to Fort Hill to resume his studies at Clemson Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Miss Sallie Lee Harrison has returned to Greenville to attend the Presbyterian college.

Mr. W. L. Mellichamp has returned to Farmton, after spending the holidays at home.

Miss Mary Harrison, of Ridgeway, is visiting relatives in Longtown.

There was quite an enjoyable party at Mr. D. W. Tidwell's on Friday evening of last week.

Mr. Will Stewart, of Columbia, visited relatives here on Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Jenkins and Misses Maggie and Alice Jenkins, of Columbia, came up on Saturday to attend Mrs. Seigler's funeral.

Mr. Jno. W. Seigler, of Winnsboro, came down on Saturday to attend his mother's funeral.

Miss Mamie Haynes, who has been visiting relatives at Winnsboro, has returned home.

January 7, 1901.

Persons who suffer from indigestion can not expect to live long, because they cannot eat the food required to nourish the body and the products of the undigested foods they do eat poison the blood. It is important to cure indigestion as soon as possible, and the best method of doing this is to use the preparation known as Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. It digests what you eat and restores all the digestive organs to perfect health. McMaster Co.

Happy and Prosperous New Year

TO ALL,

And 10 Cents for Every Pound of Cotton Raised in 1901 to the

GOOD FARMERS of OLD FAIRFIELD.

And when you want anything in the line of DRY GOODS, NOTIONS, BOOTS, SHOES and CLOTHING be sure and call on us. We can supply all your wants at

Low-Tide Prices.

We have The Winnsboro Bank on our side; prosperity is bound to come to all who trade with us. Our motto:

Quick Sales and Small Profits.

Polite attention to all. Goods exchanged or money refunded. Yours for biz,

D. V. Walker & Co.

IF YOU NEED A LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD. JOHNSTON, Judge Probat

BEER, IRON AND WINE, -AT-

Obear Drug Co. SUMMONS.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD. COURT OF COMMON PLEAS. The Peoples Bank, of Winnsboro, South Carolina, Plaintiff, against

Sol. Wolfe, H. C. Wolfe, David C. B. Wolfe, Sara W. DesPortes, Rebecca C. Brannon, Etta L. Nathan, D. J. Kaufman, Isabelle Baruch, and Rose E. Lytton, Defendants.

Copy Summons. For Relief, Complaint not Served.

To the Defendant above-named: YOU are hereby summoned and required to answer the complaint in this action, which is filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, for the said County, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said complaint on the subscribers at their offices above The Winnsboro Bank, Winnsboro, S. C., within twenty days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the complaint within the time aforesaid, the plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint.

November 30th, 1900. RAGSDALE & RAGSDALE, Plaintiff's Attorneys.

To all of the defendants above-named except the defendant Sara W. DesPortes: Take notice that the complaint in this action (together with the summons, of which the foregoing is a copy), was filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, at Winnsboro, County of Fairfield, in the State of South Carolina, on the 1st day of December, 1900.

RAGSDALE & RAGSDALE, Plaintiff's Attorneys.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION. STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD. By S. R. JOHNSTON, Esq., Judge Probat

WHEREAS, J. E. McDonald hath made suit to me to grant him letters of administration of the estate and effects of William Rosborough, deceased:

These are therefore to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and creditors of the said William Rosborough, deceased, that they be and appear before me, in the Court of Probate, to be held at Fairfield Court House, S. C., on the 18th day of January next, after publication hereof, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any they have, why the said administration should not be granted.

Given under my hand, this 31st day of December, Anno Domini 1900. S. R. JOHNSTON, Judge of Probate.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION. STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD. By S. R. JOHNSTON, Esq., Judge Probat

WHEREAS, J. E. McDonald hath made suit to me to grant him letters of administration of the estate and effects of William Rosborough, deceased:

These are therefore to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and creditors of the said William Rosborough, deceased, that they be and appear before me, in the Court of Probate, to be held at Fairfield Court House, South Carolina, on the 16th day of January next, after publication hereof, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any they have, why the said Administration should not be granted.

Given under my hand this 31st day of December, Anno Domini 1900. S. R. JOHNSTON, Judge of Probate.