

ANNUAL MESSAGE

McGovernor McSweeney to the State Legislature.

GENERAL INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

Congratulations to the People of South Carolina Cause of Their General Prosperity—Recommendations.

Following is the substance of the annual message transmitted to the General Assembly of South Carolina by Governor McSweeney, M. B. McSweeney, at the opening session of that body Tuesday at noon.

During the past year the heavy hand of affliction was laid upon the chief executive of the State, and the people were called to mourn the death of their Governor after a long illness.

EVIDENCES OF PROGRESS.

Cotton manufacturing, South Carolina ranks second only to Massachusetts in the number of spindles and second to none in equipment.

PENSIONS.

A generation has passed since the "War Between the States." The Southern soldiers who fought for a cause they believed to be right laid their all upon the altar of their country.

PENAL AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The Constitution of the State imposes upon us the duty of caring for the insane, blind, deaf and dumb, and the poor, and says that institutions for this purpose shall be fostered and supported.

TAXATION.

The Constitution says that "All taxes upon property, real and personal, shall be laid upon the actual value of the property taxed, as the same shall be ascertained by an assessment made for the purpose of laying such tax."

amounts to the same thing. The value found it necessary to do much re- vision on the buildings at the institu- tion and on the farm, and there is much more work that is necessary to be done. When he took charge there the tax was turned over to him by his predecessor \$114.35 in cash, and he found it necessary to commence buying provi- sions to support the inmates at once, and on March 15th to the harvesting of 3,388 bushels of corn and meal. It does not appear to me to be good busi- ness judgment, with the farms that are owned by the State, to be forced to such a mode of assessment as will give a large quantity of corn and a uniform valuation to all property, when they could and ought to be subject to taxation. That such results are not obtained now, I am sure, is the fault of the law.

Whether it is the fault of the law or of the administration, I am not prepared to say. We have Township Boards of Assessors and County Boards of Equalization, but the manner in which they assess, and the manner in which they discharge their duties, are the time they allot to the discharge of these duties does not secure a uniform valuation of property for the purpose of taxation. Nor, indeed, could they do it under the present plan if they gave more time. They may secure an approximate uniformity for valuation in each county, and so far as county purposes are concerned, that might suffice, but the average in the counties varies and the burden of taxation does not fall equally on the several counties. I have no fully matured plan to submit for your consideration as a remedy for this evil, but I am persuaded that if some plan could be devised by which the Constitution could be obeyed and all property assessed at its actual value, the burden would bear more easily and equitably upon all taxpayers.

By comparison of the figures in the Comptroller General's report, you will see that the taxable property for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 1899, is \$3,155,183 more than for the preceding fiscal year: Total taxable property for the fiscal year commencing January 1st, 1899... \$176,422,233 Total taxable property for the fiscal year commencing January 1st, 1898... 173,237,105 Increase... \$3,185,128

The Board of Regents desires to suggest for your consideration the better development of the system of county poor houses and the consideration of the matter of "settling" by which would be better established who may claim beneficiary support in the State Hospital. Our law should also be more specific in dealing with inebriates and the criminal insane. During the prevalence of an epidemic disease, it is also recommended that for the protection of the patients in the Hospital the right of quarantine against the infected trainee be entrusted to the Governor, the Chairman of the State Board of Health, and the President of the Regents.

The growth of the institution has been so great that the necessary repairs for ordinary wear and tear have become a considerable drain upon the maintenance fund. The Board estimates that in order to keep up these repairs and make some of the improvements recommended will require about \$19,000. An itemized statement will be found in the superintendent's report.

be practicable. Local option would be even worse than prohibition. To have prohibition in one county, a license system in an adjoining county, and the dispensary in another, would create no end of confusion and trouble throughout the State. I would recommend for your consideration the abolition of the State and County Boards of Control and that the duties of these officers be devolved upon other officials. You should elect a State Commissioner of high character and good business judgment, and give him sufficient compensation to command the services of such a man. He should be given more authority and discretion, and required to give a good and sufficient bond and be subject to removal by the Governor. As an advisory board to the State Commissioner I would suggest the Comptroller General, the State Treasurer and the State Superintendent of Education, with such powers and duties as in your wisdom you may think proper to confer upon them.

In place of the County Boards I would suggest that the County Supervisor, the County Auditor, and the Mayor of the county seat town, if a dispensary be located there, if not the Mayor or Intendant of some town in the county in which there is a dispensary, constitute the County Board, and that they serve without extra compensation.

These changes are suggested not only because in my judgment they would improve the administration of the law, but on the ground of economy. I would also suggest that the law be so amended as to bring violations within the jurisdiction of the Magistrates, so that all cases might be promptly and summarily adjudicated.

THE MARKETS.

Prevailing Prices of Cotton, Grain and Produce.

Table with columns for Cotton, Grain, and Produce prices. Includes items like Strict good middling, Good middling, etc.

The Passing of the Crocodile.

To say that the crocodile has seen his best days is but feebly to express the rapidity with which he is lapsing into the class of extinct animals. As a feature of modern Egypt he is perhaps rather a curiosity than a plague; and the traveler has to get far beyond the regions of the Delta before he can begin to hope for the chance of being introduced to one. Crocodile stories are no longer told; in fact, it is safer to trust to the sea serpent. Nothing can make the crocodile attractive, and even treating him as a subject—whether for personal or artistic reasons is not quite clear. Possibly, the crocodile resents being focussed as he formerly shrank before confrontation with a mirror—an ordeal which often led to his dying of chagrin, as was supposed, at the sight of his own ugliness.

BRITISH LOSS 8,213.

Trained Men and Volunteers to be Called Out.

65,000 MOORE TROOPS ARE NEEDED.

Mr. Balfour Says the American Revolution is the Only War England has Lost—She Has Suffered Disasters.

London, by Cable.—The War Office has neither contributed any light on the situation in Natal since Sunday nor allowed the dispatches of correspondents to get through. Consequently the public impatience finds vent in a discussion of the conduct of the war. The Morning Post demands that the forces be increased by 65,000 men. To this end it urges that all the trained men the country possesses, militia and volunteers shall be called out, asserting incidentally that although the attitude of the other powers is correct in the diplomatic sense of the word, an invasion, if attempted, would be sudden, and that now is the time to apprehend contingencies.

The Daily Mail says it understands that the suppression of another general commanding in South Africa will shortly be announced. This may have relation to General Buller's hasty summons from Davenport. It is reported that he came by special train to London yesterday and held a long consultation with the headquarters staff. This seems to indicate that his advice which only recently was in extreme disfavor, is about to be utilized.

The critics range up and down the entire field of war transactions, finding fault especially with the lack of transports for the troops who are ready to depart, and with the concealment of news, averring that the censorship in South Africa embraces the mails; that the reports of correspondents are being mutilated and entire letters suppressed. The admiralty is seeking transports and is reported to have chartered the American liner St. Paul, which was inspected previous to the chartering, and three Liverpool steamers.

S. A. L.'s Liberal Offer.

The industrial Department of the S. A. L. announces that they have the following breeds of fullblooded roosters: Light Brahmas, Black Langshans, and Black Monarchs, which they propose to loan to those who are located on the line of the S. A. L. system, for the purpose of improving their breed of chickens.

Pulitzer's House Burned.

New York, Special.—The handsome residence of Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the New York World, at 10-12 East Fifty-fifth street, was destroyed by fire Tuesday and two women servants were suffocated or burned to death. The total loss is estimated at about \$300,000. The victims of the fire were Mrs. Morgan Jellett, the housekeeper, and Miss Elizabeth Montgomery, a governess.

20,000 Witnesses.

Frankfort, Ky., Special.—The sessions of both houses of the legislature were uneventful. Former Governor Bradley, chief counsel for Governor Taylor, denied stories that troops had been brought here in citizen's clothes and that Republicans had arranged to import here large bodies of men from over the State to intimidate the legislature. He said: "We will summon 20,000 witnesses, whose evidence is to be taken for use before the State contest board, and many of them, I suppose, will come, but there will be no effort at intimidation. I take no stock in the talk about bloodshed."

Race Riot Feared.

New Orleans, Special.—At a conference of Republican leaders of the party (sugar planters' branch) at the St. Charles, it was resolved to put out a straight Lily White Republican ticket. If the sentiment expressed can be depended upon, Mr. Thomas J. Woodward, of this city, will be nominated for governor. The Lily White State central committee met in the St. Charles hotel for the purpose of calling a State convention.

THE NATIONAL LAW MAKERS.

What Congress is Doing From Day to Day.

The Senate.

Fourteenth Day.—The Senate evinced no disposition to take up the work of the session in earnest, and while the sitting was of only a little more than an hour's duration, a large number of important bills were introduced and a definite foundation laid for proceeding with the financial bill. The hour for the beginning of the debate on this measure was fixed for 2 o'clock Thursday. The most notable event of the day was an objection entered by Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, to the summary disposition of resolutions asking for information about the conduct of the Philippine war.

Sixteenth Day.—In the Senate a resolution, offered by Mr. Allen, of Nebraska, calling upon each cabinet officer for a itemized statement of the amount of the \$50,000,000 defense fund each department expended, was adopted. A resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Navy for Admiral Dewey's report, in which he made the statement that he could take Manila at any time, offered by Mr. Pettigrew, of South Dakota, was adopted. A resolution offered some time ago by Mr. Pettigrew, calling upon the Secretary of War for information as to an alleged interview between General Torres, of the Philippine army, and General Otis was called up. Mr. Lodge, of Massachusetts, offered a substitute for the pending resolution, calling upon the President, if not incompatible with public interests, to furnish general information regarding the Philippine insurrection contained in official documents and dispatches.

Seventeenth Day.—Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, introduced a resolution asking the President to furnish the Senate with all communications received from Aguinaldo or any one representing the Filipinos or any alleged authority of the people there and our replies thereto; the proclamation sent to the Philippine people and the information actually proclaimed by General Otis if in any way altered, together with any approved, and the President is also asked to forward without delay all information he has of the forms of government, proclamations or conventions of those islands. Mr. Hoar sought immediate consideration, but on objection went over.

The House.

Fifteenth Day.—The house was in session but 15 minutes and during that time had a little flurry over an attempt by Mr. Sulzer, of New York, to secure consideration for a resolution asking information concerning the relations of the Treasury Department with the National City Bank, of New York. The resolution was referred to the committee on ways and means. Mr. Gaines, of Tennessee, rose to a question of personal privilege respecting his vote on the Roberts resolution. These events and the prayer of the chaplain occupied the brief time the house was in session.

Murder and Lynching.

Ripley, Tenn., Special.—Officers Marvin Turner and W. D. Turner Tuesday arrested a desperate negro named Ginnerly, five miles north of here, and were escorting him to the Ripley jail, when two negroes, brothers of the prisoner, shot both officers in the back, killing them. A large posse instantly began pursuit of the murderers to Lynch them. The latest reports from the posse are that two of the miscreants have been caught and lynched. The two negroes were swung to trees at the roadside.

HAD HOT TIMES.

Men Crowded Around The Engines Clamoring For Water.

BRITISH SUFFER WITH THIRST.

Descriptions Showing The Fearful Suffering The British Are Undergoing in the Transvaal.

London, by Cable.—"The men were crowding around the engines in line, offering the drivers fabulous prices for a cup of water," writes the Globe correspondent, describing the close of the battle at Enslain, "but it was useless. The drivers had been threatened with court-martial if they supplied any, as there was great difficulty in keeping a sufficient supply for the engines. I saw one soldier lying flat on the line under an engine, catching a few drops in his mouth from a steam pipe."

Such extracts as this from the mailed descriptions of the fighting in South Africa give some faint idea of the conditions under which it is being carried on. Belated as these letters are, by the time they appear in English papers they throw much-needed light upon the campaign so barrenly reported over the censored cables. The heat that drove British soldiers to drink gratefully from the exhaust pipe of an engine after seven hours fighting at Enslain, where they lost 179 killed and wounded, has proved a serious factor in the care of the wounded. Surgeon Makins, formerly of St. Thomas Hospital, writes from the field hospital at Orange river:

"During an eight days' stay some 600 wounded men have passed through the hands of the Royal Army Medical corps here. In one night alone 300 patients arrived from the fight at Modder river. Yesterday the thermometer registered 125 degrees Fahrenheit in some of the tents. The journey from here to the base hospital takes 28 hours and emphasizes the difficulty due to the immense length of line of communication. The doings of the, besieged at Ladysmith have been fully described by recent letters. If the Boers continue to so closely hem in and continuously bombard White's force, the besieged promise to become full-fledged cave dwellers, for according to the Daily News correspondent at Ladysmith, the prevalent tendency there is to burrow.

"Some people," writes the authority, "having spent much time and patient labor in making burrows for themselves, find life there so intolerably monotonous that they prefer to take the chances above ground. Others pass whole days with wives and families, or in solitary misery where there is not light enough to read or work, scarcely showing a head outside from sunrise to sunset. They may be seen trooping away from fragile tin-roofed houses half an hour before daybreak, carrying children in their arms, or a cat, or monkey, or mongoose, or a cage of pet birds, and they come back similarly laden when the night gets too dim for gunners to go on shooting. There would be a touch of humor in all this, if it were not so deeply pathetic in its close association with possible tragedies. One never knows where or at what hour a stray shot or splinter will fall, and it is pitiful sometimes to hear cries for 'dolly' from a prattling mite who may herself be fatherless or motherless tomorrow. We think as little as possible of such things, putting them from us with the light comment that they happen daily elsewhere than in besieged towns, making the best we can of a melancholy situation."

Mineral Output For 1899.

New York, Special.—The United States Engineering and Mining Journal, in its annual statistical number, says that the preliminary statement of mineral production in the United States in 1899, shows that the total production of metals in the United States for that year was valued at the place of production at \$412,738,414, as compared with \$314,255,620 in 1898.

Wants \$100,000.

Chicago, Special.—Miss Etta Thomas a niece of General Joe Wheeler, has begun suit in the superior court against Wm. H. Fahrney, a prominent West Side society man, asking \$100,000 damages for alleged breach of promise to marry.

Lily White Ticket.

New Orleans, Special.—At a conference of Republican leaders of the party (sugar planters' branch) at the St. Charles, it was resolved to put out a straight Lily White Republican ticket. If the sentiment expressed can be depended upon, Mr. Thomas J. Woodward, of this city, will be nominated for governor. The Lily White State central committee met in the St. Charles hotel for the purpose of calling a State convention.