

THE LEDGER.

THURLOW S. CARTER,
OR AND MANAGER.

By it

ISSUED WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY

SATURDAY JANUARY 14, 1905.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR

Chapin Dispensary Suspends.

Special to The State.

White Rock, Jan. 11.—Chapin is at last rid of "the great moral institution." Last Saturday was its last day. Thereto hangs a tale. Two-years ago, it is understood, every person in the place signed a petition for its removal. For reasons known, possibly only by the board, the request of the petitioners was ignored and the dispensary continued business. Recently the building in which it was conducted changed hands. Other vacant buildings were promptly rented by the citizens in view of this, and the dispensary suspended for want of quarters.

An Appeal Denied McCue, the Wife-Murderer.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 12.—The Supreme court of appeals to-day refused a writ of error in the case of ex-Mayor McCue, of Charlottesville, convicted of wife-murder and sentenced to hang the 20th of this month.

A Charlottesville special says that when the news of the action of the supreme court in denying a writ of error was conveyed to McCue he lost his nerve and fainted.

Cotton Gambler Does Great Harm.

Congressman Johnson Hits at Speculators in House.—As-sails New York People Who Attempt to Dictate the Price.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Under the license of debate, Mr. Johnson, of South Carolina, devoted himself to a discussion of the cotton question, in the House today. He called attention to what he said was a systematic effort unfortunately successful, to bear down the price of cotton, and asserted that there was no justification for such a brutal campaign of deception and misrepresentation. "I know," he said, "there are some kid glove gentry in New York who would not know a cotton patch from a pea patch; who are undertaking to tell the world that the Southern farmer can make cotton at four and a half cents." If he had the power, he said, he would have every man who gambled in cotton on the New York cotton exchange, and who said cotton can be produced at four and a half cents, "go down and with his own naked hands, pull the bell cord over a mule and make cotton at their price."

Mr. Douglas, of New York interjected the remark that most of the men speculating on the New York exchange were Southern men, which caused Mr. Johnson to declare that whether they were Southern men or not they were enemies of the Southern people, and of people of good morals everywhere. The people of the South, he said, were holding cotton which they had no more idea of parting with at the present than the owners of United States bonds had of selling them at 25 cents on the dollar.

He predicted that before September 1, 1905, thousands of spindles in the United States and abroad would be idle because of their inability to get cotton to spin.

Mrs. Miller Acquitted in Federal Court.

A Case of Interest to Fourth Class Postmasters.—Question of Cancelled Stamps.

The State 12th Inst.

The federal court was occupied all day yesterday with the trial of Mrs. Frances Miller, formerly postmistress at Heath Springs, in Lancaster county, about six miles north of Kershaw on the Southern railway. The indictment charged Mrs. Miller with making false returns to the auditor of the postoffice department by padding her account of cancelled stamps. The case was given to the jury at six o'clock yesterday evening. The jury remained out 10 minutes and returned a verdict of not guilty.

The case excited much interest and the court room was filled all day with interested listeners. It will be of peculiar interest to the hundreds of fourth class postmasters over the country, and will be more so when it is stated that it is perhaps the only case reported in which the postmaster made regular canvassing trips in the interests of the letter mailing business and was so successful in soliciting business that she had persons living miles away who would send her letters to be mailed at her office instead of mailing them at the office in their own towns. For the benefit of those who do not know why it would be for financial benefit to Mrs. Miller to have her friends do this, it must be stated that Uncle Sam does not pay any salary to his fourth class postmasters. In lieu of salary they are given a certain percentage of the stamps which they cancel at their respective offices. It is true that they have to buy these stamps from the department and pay their face value for them, but after they are resold to the patrons of the office the postmaster is allowed as compensation for his or her services a certain per cent. On the first \$50, 100 per cent., or the entire amount is allowed the postmaster; on the second \$50, 60 per cent of the amount cancelled is allowed the postmaster; and on the third \$50, 50 per cent.

The offence, therefore, with which Mrs. Miller was charged was that she claimed in her quarterly returns to the postoffice department to have canceled more stamps at her office than she really did according to a check which had been placed upon the office by Postoffice Inspector Pulsipher. It was alleged that this was done in the month of September, 1902. The amount claimed by Mrs. Miller in her returns for the month was \$90.98. The amount to which she was entitled is alleged by the government to have been only \$37.32. This amount was arrived at in the following manner: The railway postal clerks passing Heath Springs were instructed by Inspector Pulsipher to keep tab on all the letters and packages mailed at Heath Springs which passed through their hands during the month of September. There was another outlet for mail sent out from Heath Springs and that was through a star mail route to Magill. The postmaster at this little office was also instructed to keep tab on all Heath Springs matters. The amount reported to the inspector from these outlets was only \$37.32, not counting seven registered letters which are mailed under sealed cover, but as the registry fee is only eight cents, in addition to regular postage this amount was not much. The only other sources to Mrs. Miller was from "drop" letters and packages and whatever amount she was en-

titled to from postage due stamps. As this would leave over \$50 to be cancelled in that way, the government contended that her account was beyond all reason and that therefore the account was not a true but padded one. To strengthen this contention, Postmaster Mackey, who succeeded Mrs. Miller, was put on the stand, and he testified to the amounts cancelled monthly by him since he had been in charge of the office. In no case did the amount go higher than \$50 and in most of the months it was around \$40.

To offset the government's contention the defense put up several traveling men who testified, that they had made it a point to mail letters through the Heath Springs office while Mrs. Miller had charge of it and that they did this because Mrs. Miller, as the keeper of the hotel there, had been kind to them and they wanted to help her in every way possible. One witness testified that he and others had frequently passed by other offices, knowing they were going to Heath Springs in order to mail the letters from Mrs. Miller's office. Prominent business and professional men testified to similar action on their part, and further that they had not done so since Mrs. Miller gave up the office.

The star witness of the trial was Miss Miller, eldest daughter of the defendant, and during the month of September assistant postmistress. Many who have had long experience in studying witnesses declared that she was the most composed female witness they had ever seen. Nothing ruffled her and if she was in the least excited she controlled herself so perfectly that no one could detect even a tremor in her voice.

Argument for the defense was made by Attorney Blakeney of Kershaw. Assistant District Attorney Cochran made the argument for the prosecution.

Judge Brawley charged the jury in succinct statements, explaining the case and informing them that the crime charged was a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine and imprisonment, or by a fine only, a matter left to the discretion of the presiding judge who would be governed by the nature of their verdict. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

Suicide of a Student of Bingham Military Academy.

Ashville, N. C., Jan. 11.—The body of O. A. Whittaker, of Paragon, Ind., a student of Bingham Military Academy, was found today hanging to a tree in Victoria woods. The coroner's jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death by suicidal hanging. Whittaker, who was 22 years old, came to the Bingham Military Academy ten days ago. Since his arrival here the school authorities state Whittaker suffered from homesickness, and it is thought that he committed the deed while under its influence.

The hard yarn spinners sympathize with the cotton producers, in the present condition of the market. They would much prefer that the farmers receive fair prices. At their recent meeting in Charlotte they adopted the following:

"Fully realizing that the price of cotton is abnormally low, even admitting that a 13,000,000 bale crop has been made, which no one living in the south and familiar with the conditions believes, we desire to go on record as in sympathy with the cotton growers in their movement to hold the balance of their crop until they can get a price commensurate with the cost of production."

BANNER SALVE
The most healing salve in the world.

ATTENTION BARGAIN SEEKERS! THE HEATH-JONES COMPANY,

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Successors to HEATH BANKING & MERCANTILE CO., which has been liquidated in order to settle with the estate of JAS. M. HEATH, deceased.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

We are here for business and intend getting our share of the trade if low prices and fair dealings will induce the public to stick to us. Having renovated the stores of the Heath Banking & Mercantile Co., gives us more room and makes our place more convenient for business. We have divided our stock into department, groceries first, on the corner; gent's furnishing department second; dry goods third, and millinery in the fourth room.

We would call your attention to the fact that we have many great inducements to offer

For The Next Thirty Days

as we want to make a clean sweep before purchasing our Spring Goods.

In moving our Shoes, a great many of the boxes were broken, and we have decided to place them on a bargain counter, and let them go at first cost. Now these shoes are not old goods but right new and some of the best we have, such as DREW-SELBY, GODMAN and other makes.

CLOTHING WE HAVE IN ABUNDANCE.

And if prices will move the goods, it is up to you to take advantage of this great reduction sale. You can have any suit of clothes in our establishment for actual cost for the spot cash, so don't delay but come and let us dress you up.

We would like to tell you more about what we have in the way of bargains but being so rushed prevents our doing so. All we ask is an inspection and you will readily see we are

IN SHAPE FOR BUSINESS,

and can make you prices that will give you perfect satisfaction, Wishing everyone a prosperous New Year and hoping for more of your patronage, we are,

THE HEATH-JONES COMPANY.

LANCASTER S. C.