

THE LEDGER.

THURLOW S. CARTER,
EDITOR AND MANAGER.

ISSUED WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY

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Legislative Dots.

Mr. Editor: I send you only a brief letter this week as the session up to this time have been of very little interest. Practically the week has been spent in organization and preparation for work.

The officers are the same as last year, all being elected without opposition. Mr. L. M. Smith is speaker, T. C. Hamer clerk, J. S. Wilson sergeant-at-arms, J. T. Withers reading clerk, Rev. R. N. Pratt chaplain.

In the allotment of seats Lancaster had third choice and made a convenient and desirable selection.

The Lancaster representatives have good committee assignments; they are as follows:

Senator Hough chairman of committee on penal and charitable institutions, also member of judiciary committee, and the committee on privileges and elections, and retrenchment.

Representative Foster, judiciary and state house and grounds.

Representative Hamel, incorporation, public printing, enrolled bills and public schools.

Bills are pouring in and are being referred to the committees, and it is likely that the work of the session will begin early next week.

The deficiency in the revenues of the state, educational affairs and the dispensary issue are the measures likely to engage the largest attention.

Will try to keep your readers informed from week to week.

J. W. HAMEL.

A Minister Drops Dead.

Rev. Dr. Harvey Hatcher, a Prominent Baptist Divine of Atlanta, Expires in the Lobby of a Hotel at Beaufort, S. C.

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 15.—Rev. Harvey Hatcher, D. D., of Atlanta, one of the best known Baptist ministers in the South, dropped dead in the lobby of the hotel at Beaufort, this State at 4 o'clock this afternoon. He had just entered the hotel from the street, and stood near the office railing, when he suddenly fell forward and remained unconscious for seven minutes, when he expired. He preached a sermon at the Baptist church this morning, and intended to preach again to-night.

In company with a party of South Carolina Baptist ministers, Dr. Hatcher had gone to Beaufort on Monday last to participate in the deer hunt on Hilton Head Island. During the three days' hunting the party had bagged nine deer. Dr. Hatcher himself killing a fine buck.

Dr. Hatcher was apparently in good health and had greatly enjoyed his outing. He was active preacher for 50 years and had charge of the Atlanta branch of American Baptist Publication Society. He was 72 years of age and a native of Suffolk county, Va.

LARGE INSURANCE POLICY.

Rock Hill, Jan. 15.—The office of the State manager of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of New York at Rock Hill paid out today the sum of \$65,000, the amount of the insurance policy held in that company by the late Senator C. S. McCall of Bennettsville.

Variety of Measures Before Legislature.

Within the First Three Days of the Session More Than One Hundred and Fifty Bills

The State, 16th inst.

During the first week's session of the general assembly more than 150 bills have been prepared for consideration and the most of them have been introduced and are awaiting the action of committees. This represents practically three days' work, since few were introduced on the first day and Saturday was practically a dies non.

The bills range in variety from a concurrent resolution having for its object the repeal of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments of the constitution of the United States to changing the name of Bull Pond school house to Bull Pond club. Both are actual bills and not extremes of the imagination.

Of amendments to the constitution of 1895 there are already nine proposed. Some of these are interesting if nothing more. One would have the terms of circuit judges changed from four to sixteen years, a more desirable length of service, to the legislator, than for life or during good behavior. Another would have more power given to magistrates, another step towards inferior courts of some importance.

Some old favorites or better acquaintances are up again. The shad bill for instance. Mr Sanders will defend to the utmost his oil inspector bill which went down last year. The experiment station bill asks for another showing, and so does the inheritance tax measure of Mr Herbert.

There are already six bills on the marriage license subject. The entry of the title on one of these, which was incorrect, made it appear at first to be the champion freak measure of the session. The title as it appeared at first read, "To require all persons to contract matrimony and to have a license therefor," which seemed to be the first step towards the tax on bachelors which has been so freely discussed. The bachelors can breathe easy for the present, however, as the correct bill should be, "To require all who shall contract, etc." A bill which is closely akin to this and other marriage license bills is one to prevent child marriages. It provides that the person, minister or official, who marries a couple without the consent of the parents of both where the groom is under 21 and the bride under 18 shall be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to punishment, etc.

There are eight bills relating to the dispensary law in different ways. The new amendment carried at the last election relating to the county road law has already caused three or four bills to be presented on the road law question for different counties.

Two bills of unusual provisions are, to "regulate the price of cotton seed," and to "regulate the price of peas, corn, and cotton seed." The author of these two bills evidently want to grapple with the immutable law of supply and demand and throttle it without ceremony. Another bid to "regulate the traffic in cotton seed and unpacked lint" has the appearance of more sanity.

The game birds of the state are not overlooked even the lowly terrapin has a bill to guard his existence, while the fish are included in almost all the bird bills. This "close season" idea was evidently at work in the brain of Mr Green of Lee county when he evolved what is probably the most

unique bill in the collection. He would have it unlawful to prosecute any one for disposing of a crop under a lien from the first of February until the first of August of the year after the debt protected by the lien had been made. Mr Green's idea is to save the farmer from the merchant who will let the negro so violating the lien alone until he has moved to a new home and has his crop started, knowing that if he threatens arrest the new landlord will probably pay the amount claimed in order that he may not lose the farm which he had rented to the negro tenant.

The primary system is not neglected, there being already several bills which would make for its improvement and proposing measures to bolster it up.

The automobile is a new issue and has not been overlooked. A bill looking to regulate its speed has been introduced by Mr Morgan.

There are three bills relating to the jury law. The hand of the Law and Order league can be seen probably in some of these proposed reforms.

Two bills to make the South Carolina college into a university have been introduced.

A measure which would benefit the county newspapers is one that would have all the names of delinquent tax payers published before serving executions; while another to require the sheriffs to collect these delinquent taxes without compensation would tend to reduce the emoluments of that office.

The present method of paying taxes with the small penalty after Jan 1st is evidently not entirely satisfactory, for a bill relating to the payment of taxes has been introduced.

One member wants to have a statute requiring Pullman cars provided with separate compartments for white and colored people. The Jim Crow law does not go far enough in the opinion of the author of this bill.

Two innovations, though of widely divergent character, are to have all hangings to take place inside the walls of the State penitentiary, and the other to abolish verbal contracts.

One member wants a law which will "provide an efficient method of securing teachers for school." He either "has it in" for some board of the trustees or has been made sick at heart by relying implicitly upon the fulsome recommendations presented by applicants who afterwards proved incompetent or unsatisfactory.

A bill to prohibit the "giving of corrupt gifts" is after rebates of every kind. A similar law is in force in several States.

A bill of some merit is one to require the county attorney to be present as the representative of the State at all inquests.

The constitutional rights and privileges of the individual are involved in a bill to prohibit auditors from becoming candidates for any office while holding office as auditors.

And just think the above represents the first three days of the session!

The handsome new court house at Darlington was dedicated on Saturday last to the cause of justice, law and order. All the members of the State Supreme court were present and took part in the dedication. Eloquent addresses were made by Capt W C Coker, ex-judge Hudson, Solicitor Johnson, Chief Justice Pope and the Associate Justices.

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