

GOOD ROADS  
ARE CHEAPER THAN  
PRESENT ONES

# The Dispatch-News

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TODAY

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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE

The outstanding feature of the legislative session for last week was the passage of a resolution rejecting the woman suffrage amendment to the federal constitution. The vote was very decisive. One of the best speeches made in opposition to the amendment was made by Dr. L. E. Dreher of Lexington county. Dr. Dreher made an eloquent plea for the preservation of the vestige of State's rights which was still left to us. He stood just where our ancestors did in 1860 when they shed their live's blood for the preservation of local self-government. He opposed the general assembly passing the amendment without its submission to the people. He believed the legislature was wasting time to discuss the measure because he was convinced that it would never prevail.

The next question is what will become of the resolution passed by the house when it comes to the senate. There was one peculiarity about the house resolution. It was drawn up in the form usually used for this purpose except that the customary form uses the expression "is hereby ratified," an affirmative vote meaning adoption and a negative rejection. By substituting "reject" for "ratify" and adopting the resolution it is claimed that it will forever be debarred from being brought up again. The question is now will the senate put a like perpetual quietus on woman suffrage as an amendment to the federal constitution. Some persons in close touch with the situation believe not, holding that while the senate, as at present constituted is unalterably and overwhelmingly opposed to the federal amendment, it will not consent to perpetual rejection of it. A resolution to ratify the amendment is now before the senate for action, having received an unfavorable report from the judiciary committee. One thing seems certain, the senate will certainly not vote to ratify. The best the suffragists can hope for is that the body will not follow the lead of the house and perpetually dispose of it, so that they may have another whack at it.

Senator Ridgell has met with a decidedly favorable response to his effort to have a state administrative building erected. He has gone to the pains to have an architect submit a sketch, with floor plans of the building, which looked so good that the senate was willing to vote for an amendment increasing the amount asked at first to half a million dollars. The state is now paying a great amount yearly in rents for officers who cannot find accommodations in the State house. Prospects for the success of Senator Ridgell's plans look bright.

The legislature has manifested a disposition to get a little more work done and this week is expected to show some good results. The appropriation bill will doubtless soon begin to take form, the ways and means committee and the finance committee having begun joint hearings on the bill.

If any progress has been made towards good roads legislation from a statewide standpoint nobody has heard of it. Some county delegations are introducing bills looking to the improvement of their roads, among the rest being the two million dollar bond issue for Richland county. The legislature must always do some preliminary talking at the first of the session to get acquainted with each other's views. Maybe this has been accomplished now and something will soon be done for the improvement of the roads.

The senate this year is regaling itself with water from Lexington county—the Grey Rock spring, near Batesburg, furnishing drinking water for the body. Mineral water springs in the Piedmont have usually enjoyed this distinction. To all appearances the members like the change. The water seems to be popular with the solons.

Very few bills have yet passed both houses. Separately the two houses have each passed a few bills, but none so far have run the gauntlet of both branches.

Effort will be made at this session to tighten up the law in regard to li-

## WEEVIL MEETING DRAWS CROWD

The boll weevil conference held in the court house last Thursday was attended by a large and representative gathering of farmers. During the meeting several speeches were made by experts, which were followed by brief addresses from local county men. The visiting speakers advanced a number of new ideas, which, if put into practice, they said, would help beat the boll weevil. Diversification and intensification were urged strongly by all of the speakers. Farmers were urged to plant only such crops as had proven a success, such as sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes. Cattle raising was another theme advanced and stressed.

Several varieties of cotton, said to be the most immune from the attacks of the weevil, were mentioned, among them being the Cleveland Big Boll short staple, and Webber's long staple.

Heavier fertilization and better cultivation were urged by the speakers. In other words, make two blades grow this year where only one grew last year.

The meeting was full in interest, and those who attended felt fully repaid for having been here.

## SUPPORT RIDGELL PLAN OR OFFER BETTER ONE

In regard to the Dr. Ridgell Bill for good roads, it seems that objection is raised to the \$100,000 appropriation feature and the provision of doing away with the office of supervisor.

The \$100,000 is to be used in matching the government appropriations and also in buying equipment for the four construction crews in the county. In order to get the U. S. Government to invest in Lexington roads, our delegation was forced to meet it with an equal amount of money or work. This has tied up the chaingang on Augusta road which has badly hampered our present supervisor. If an appropriation could be made, it would release the gang for other work in the County such as bridges etc., and Augusta road in Fork, and down to Orangeburg could be worked by contract. The Occonee County senator has just introduced a \$400,000 appropriation for his county. If Lexington doesn't get the government money others are waiting.

The capitation tax and road tax return to the township from which they are paid. Hollow Creek township paid around \$2,500.00 last year, this would drag every mile twice each year with one of the four construction gangs.

In regard to election by people, there need be no fear of that. The county commissioners would have the responsibility of selecting him just as trustees now select a superintendent of city schools. As a caution, you may wonder if a man objecting to this is not looking for a job. The idea is to first give the man money, next relieve him of all the financial end and vest that in the commissioners. Then let him look after the four construction gangs, and chaingang.

If you want good roads write to your representatives at once what your wishes are or call in person.

## "ROADS." HAS PURCHASED FARMERS' RURAL TELEPHONE OUTFIT

Messrs. Scott Hook, W. Moody Harman and G. Jacob Lindler, enterprising farmers of Hollow Creek Township, were in town this week, and each purchased a Farmers Rural Telephone outfit and will shortly have the convenience of that service in their homes.

## BOX PARTY AT PINEVILLE.

There will be a box party, cake walk and other amusements at Pineville school house on Friday night, January 30. This entertainment is to be given for the benefit of the school and everybody is cordially invited.

quor substitutes. A bill along this line has been introduced which will make it harder to get extracts and other fluids which contain alcohol as a preservative.

Representative Fulmer of Orangeburg has introduced a bill to repeal the act of 1919 creating a state pension board and have the funds disbursed as formerly. The bill provides a liberal appropriation for Confederate veterans.

## 400 BALES LOW GRADE PLEDGED

At a call meeting of the American Cotton Association (Lexington County Branch) last Thursday for the purpose of obtaining options of low grade cotton to make up the 300,000 bales to be delivered abroad, Lexington offered 401 bales. The greater part of this cotton will bring 41c. This means to the farmer a gain of \$32.00 on a 400 lb. bale, or a profit of around \$9,000.00 on the 300,000 bales with best cotton at 39c. I wish to say that I feel sure this deal will be a matter of history in ten or fifteen days, and as the president, Dr. Crosson, remarked in his speech Thursday, it is now time for the farmers to assert their rights in the way of realizing proper profit from their labors.

On the contrary, only a few days since I heard the remark that the Association has not accomplished its object. I am inclined to think that such deals as above must forever dispel any doubt from the minds of the most pessimistic. It's no small task to undertake what the southern farmer has and I think this sale is only the beginning of many such to follow. Let's think of an export proposition of 300,000 bales, weighing 400 lbs. (and they will average above that) at 41c, making a total of 49,200,000 and realizing a profit in the transaction of \$9,000,000 more by this collective marketing than would have been received if sold as heretofore. Let's give J. Skottowe Wannamaker a chance and have an abiding faith in the association and its purpose.

CHALMERS E. WESSINGER.

## JUBILEE MINSTRELS DRAW CAPACITY HOUSE.

Those who attended the Jubilee Minstrel given by the local post of the American Legion in the high school auditorium last Thursday night—and it was a capacity house—witnessed the best performance ever seen in Lexington. There was not a dull moment from the time the curtain rose until the last act had been cast. The minstrel furnished two solid hours of fun and amusement, the splendid dancing, the superb jokes and highclass music thrilled the audience from start to finish. Lexington people have paid \$2.00 and more to see plays not nearly so entertaining, and had it not been for the fact that the audience knew who the members of the cast were, every performer could have easily been accepted as a professional stage actor.

The cast includes the following well known local performers: Cyrus L. Shealy, Julian R. Corley, Tom Sox, John Sox, Gus Barre, John Schneider, Willard Wingard and Lewis Roof. Ends, Sam J. Leaphart, Frank Wingard, Bert Whittaker, and Dr. Ernest Sawyer; clog dancer, Sam J. Leaphart; interlocutor, Jack Carroll.

The delightful music was furnished by Mrs. Mae Lois Van Ormer, both for the dancing and between the acts.

Following was the programme. Opening overture—The Land of Cotton—by entire cast.

Solo—They May be Old but They want to be Loved, Doc Sawyer, chorus.

Solo—You Know What I Mean, by Legs Wingard and chorus.

Solo—My Gal, by Slim Whittaker and chorus.

Trio—Lullaby Land, Cyrus L. Shealy, Shorty Roof, and Tubby Leaphart.

Ballad—That Wonderful Mother of Mine, Slim Whittaker.

Ditty—Alabama Bound, (Walking the Dog), Tubby Leaphart and chorus.

Monologue—Cyrus L. Shealy.

The last act, The Coontown Thirteen Club, was perhaps the best.

It was the first annual meeting of the club, and every member took a leading part. This meeting soon developed into what might be termed a "rough house," and when the curtain fell encore after encore went up from the audience.

The minstrel will be given in the Chapin High school auditorium next Tuesday night, commencing at 8 o'clock. The local post of the American Legion is endeavoring to raise funds to furnish club rooms in the new Corley building, which are to be used for the comfort and pleasure of the young men of the entire county who saw service in the late war with Germany. It is a most worthy undertaking, and the people of Chapin will have an opportunity to help in a good work and at the same time see one of the cleanest and best entertainments ever put on the stage.

## PRESENTMENT OF THE GRAND JURY

Among the recommendations contained in the report of the grand jury, presented at the term of court held last week, was that of abolishing the office of county supervisor, the duties now devolved upon that office to be discharged by four commissioners, one from each of the present districts, the commissioners to be elected by the voters residing in the separate districts.

It is also recommended that Lexington county make provision for rural policemen, that a set of double entry books for the county be installed, and that the feasibility of erecting a bridge at Hope's Ferry over Saluda river be looked into.

The presentment follows in full: The State of South Carolina, County of Lexington.

To Hon. J. W. DeVore, Presiding Judge:

We beg to submit this, our first presentment of the year 1920.

The grand jury has acted upon all bills of indictment given us at the present term, and returned same to the court with our findings endorsed thereon.

We have by sub-committees examined the County Jail, Poor House and Court House and find them in fair condition. We have appointed all committees to visit the County Jail, Poor House, Court House, Chain Gang, Public Schools, Roads and Bridges and have also appointed a committee to have the books of County officers examined.

We recommend that a set of double entry books be opened in which all financial transactions of the County shall be noted, and that the Legislative delegation determine what officer of the county shall keep same.

We recommend that the office of County Supervisor be abolished, and that four Commissioners be appointed, one from each of the Districts now in existence, to handle such affairs of the County as are now handled by the Supervisor and Road Commissioners, such commissioners to be elected from each district by the people residing in such districts.

We also recommend that provision be made for the establishment of a Rural Police system for Lexington County and that the police or policemen be paid fixed salaries and no fees allowed.

We recommend that the Magistrates of the County do not seek to shirk the responsibility of determining upon the probability of cases before them in which preliminaries are held and desist from passing this responsibility to the Grand Jury. In this connection we have been compelled to consider a number of cases in which we feel, if the trial magistrate had accepted the responsibility resting upon him, we would have not had to waste our time in finding no bills.

We regret the report that in parts of the County the law relating to the observance of the Sabbath is not enforced, and we urge the magistrates and all officials of the County, as well as all good citizens see that this law is observed.

A previous Grand Jury has reported and we again report that within the County a great deal of unlawful, sexual intercourse is practiced, in, along and near the public roads of the County and especially those leading into Columbia and we request the peace officers of the County to use their efforts to break this up.

We recommend that the County Poor House be screened before summer, and ministers of the Gospel be invited to hold religious services at the Poor House.

We also recommend that the Court crier be paid \$3.50 per day, and each bailiff be paid \$2.50 a day.

We also recommend that two base burner stoves be installed in the court room.

We recommend that the feasibility of erecting a bridge at Hope's Ferry over Saluda river be looked into.

In two previous presentments the Grand Jury of this County two recommendations were made concerning one Duck Mills, an inmate of the Poor House, and believed to be insane, have not been carried out, and we put the proper officials on notice that we wish these recommendations carried out immediately.

We call attention of the court to the fact that J. J. Seastrunk, a commissioner of the County from District No. 1, has resigned his office, and we recommend that the court appoint J.

## RESOLUTIONS BY COUNTY TEACHERS

The following resolutions have been adopted by the Lexington County Teachers Association:

Realizing the unlimited influence of the teacher's work upon the nation, state, the community, the home, and upon the future mental, moral, and physical state of the individual; and further realizing that a work of such outstanding importance as preparing pliable youth to attain the broadest sphere of usefulness in the religious, political and social world and the highest degree of happiness for self demands the service of the most thoro, efficient and conscientious individuals who may be found among all our people—and being fully aware of the fact that the present unattractive features of the teaching profession are so prominent as to prevent many of our better prepared and more qualified men and women from entering this profession at all, and to drive many of the more efficient who have entered out at their first opportunity to get into a more attractive calling—and on account of this condition being forced to recognize the justification of the claim of an appreciable number of parents that their children are being forced to waste precious time sitting under incompetent teachers: We, the members of the Lexington County Teachers' Association strongly endorse immediate action to produce a higher minimum standard for preparation required of teachers; a more exacting and standardized system of teachers' examination, free as far as practicable from personal and political influence; and any steps tending toward the elimination of the present overcrowding of schools—steps to prevent one teacher being required to teach from forty to seventy-five pupils in all grammar grades.

We also endorse consideration of a system of teachers' pensions after some definite length of service or in cases of disability.

We further favor increase in salaries as will make the income large enough, to enable the qualified teachers in our present force to make teaching their exclusive and lasting occupation; to appeal to the best of our young men and women when life's work is being chosen; to attract and retain a sufficient number not only to relieve the present shortage of teachers but also create a surplus of applicants large enough to cause those of our ranks who are only partially prepared for the work they are attempting, to either better prepare themselves or enter another calling; and to give to this profession the dignity and respect it deserves.

We earnestly request consideration of the foregoing petitions by the Lexington County Delegation in the State Legislature, and plead with every citizen for a reawakened educational interest that will spare neither moral or financial support in checking the present deterioration in the personnel of the teaching corps; and believing that every white child in South Carolina should have an equal chance for education and self development, we further plead for such school conditions as will give every child the opportunity of being taught by a professional teacher, especially trained for his work.

JOHN S. SCHNEIDER,  
(MISS) ETHEL DREHER  
W. E. BLACK,  
Committee.

## HAULING FERTILIZERS

Many farmers have been hauling fertilizers during the past few days, taking advantage of the fact that the weather is such that they cannot hardly do anything on the farm. As a rule, it is believed that fertilizers will be used more extensively this year than last, since it appears that there will be no danger of the potash troubles which occurred last year. Dealers in fertilizers declare that they are handling on the real and genuine German products and many of them are backing this up with a solid guarantee.

H. Adams to fill the unexpired term of J. J. Seastrunk as commissioner from such district.

We also recommend that this presentment be published in the newspapers of the County for the information of the public.

Respectfully submitted,  
EUGENE L. HARTLEY,  
Foreman of Grand Jury.

Lexington, Jan. 21, 1920.

## ALL CONVICTIONS IN SESSIONS COURT

What is believed to have been the biggest and best record ever made by any prosecuting attorney in the courts of this State, if not in the entire country, was made by George Bell Timmerman, the brilliant solicitor of the eleventh judicial circuit, in the general sessions court for Lexington last week. Twenty-one cases were disposed of and a conviction was had in every case. Not even was there a mistrial during the term. The prosecuting attorney had things going his way, and in some cases the evidence did not warrant the verdicts, in the opinion of the trial court, and new trials were ordered. In the case of Jack Summers, returned negro soldier, who was convicted of murder in the first degree, which carried the death penalty, for the alleged killing of young Harold Suber at Peak, Judge DeVore granted a new trial. The evidence against the negro was purely circumstantial, and was not sufficient to warrant the extreme verdict, in the opinion of the court, it being thought that the jury was possibly swayed by the argument of the solicitor, which was characterized by many who heard it as being the most eloquent and forceful argument ever delivered in a murder case in the Lexington court room.

The total amount of fines collected during the week aggregated \$535.00, and terms on the chaingang amounted to 26 1-2 years. In addition three sealed sentences were imposed by the court upon defendants who were tried and convicted in their absence.

Following is a list of the cases not reported last week:

Frank Harley, negro, two charges of housebreaking and larceny, two years on each charge.

Isaac Perry, negro youth, assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature, five years in the State Reformatory for colored youths.

Tillman Pinckney, Swansea negro charged with the murder of his wife, manslaughter with recommendation to mercy, three years at hard labor.

Fred Lowman, negro, charged with robbery and larceny, seven years at hard labor.

Cifton Chavis and Nathan Lambert, white, charged with having shot the postmaster at Cayce, two years at hard labor or a fine of \$125.00 each.

Jack Summers, murder, new trial granted by the court.

John Jennings and William McNure, white, housebreaking and larceny, nine months at hard labor.

The court adjourned on Friday afternoon. Judge DeVore made a splendid impression upon the people of Lexington, and made many new friends by his high judicial bearing.

The presentment of the grand jury appears in another column.

## ATTRACTIVE DIRECTORY IS BEING DISTRIBUTED

The telephone directory of the Citizens Telephone Co., corrected to January 15, 1920, is off the press and is now being distributed to the subscribers of the local phone company. The directory is neat in appearance, and besides the names and phone numbers, contains advertisements from practically all the business houses of Lexington, which subscribers will do well to read, and then go to these enterprising merchants and business men for their wants.

It is the desire of the officers of the company that the directory be used in calling people on the phone. It saves time both for the party doing the calling and the operator when numbers are used instead of names.

## RECENT CHANGES IN RESIDENCES HERE.

During the past week there have been a number of changes in residences in Lexington. Mr. Thos. W. Hendrix has moved into his home recently purchased from W. W. Barre, which has been occupied for a number of years by Mr. W. H. Gibbs. Mr. Gibbs has moved into the Jumper old home in the eastern part of town, and Mr. Claude Hook has moved into the home vacated by Mr. Hendrix near the Methodist church. Policeman Harman has moved into the home of Col. M. D. Harman on Main street.

In this connection it may be stated that there is not a single vacant house in town or right near town. The demand for houses is greater than has ever been known, which goes to show that Lexington is on a boom.