

VOLUME NO. 51

## HAPPENINGS OF WEEK IN STATE LEGISLATURE

Columbia, Feb. 1.—As predicted in this column last week little of great importance was accomplished in the legislature the past week. Considerable time being necessarily devoted to elections. Chief interest in these centered in the race for associate justice of the supreme court, in which Hon. T. P. Cothran of Greenville, was the successful candidate.

The race for chief game warden resulted in the selection of A. A. Richardson, former game warden. Wade Hampton Gibbs, the present game warden, was not a candidate. Sanders was reelected superintendent of the penitentiary.

The usual week-end recess was taken by the legislature Friday last, though the calendars of both houses are beginning to be well filled with bills of more or less importance.

An interesting hearing was held before the senate committee on agriculture last week, participated in by numerous citizens of Horry county, who desire to have their county remain under free range conditions. Horry county has always remained exempt from the general provisions of the stock. The 1920 legislature enacted a law putting the county under the fence law to begin January of this year, and some citizens are complaining bitterly of the law and ask to be returned to free range conditions. In view of the fight to eradicate cattle ticks and hog cholera they may be denied their request for free range.

Prediction is being made that the present week will complete the hearings on the general appropriation bill and that the measure is likely to be introduced in the house about the 7th of February. If this is done adjournment may be had within the 40-day limit, which will expire Saturday, February 19.

Up to the present few bills of statewide interest have been passed, but there are many of them on both calendars. Among the more important of these may be mentioned:

**Senate Bills.**  
Mr. Wightman's bills to abolish the tax commission, the board of public welfare and the highway commission, and to reduce the salaries of all county and state officers, twenty per cent. All of these have unfavorable reports.

Senator Johnstone's bill to prohibit planting more than one-third of land tilled in cotton, returned by committee without recommendation.

Senator Johnstone's bills relating to firearms and providing imprisonment and not fine for liquor law violators, both of which were reported favorably.

Senator Christensen's bill to provide for women voting in primary elections, reported favorably.

Senator J. H. Johnson's bill providing for heavy fine for carrying concealed weapons, with an unfavorable report.

A bill by Representative Jackson, which has already passed the house and has a favorable report in the senate, designed to repeal Sec. 659 of the Code which requires a board to be placed at the top of every wire fence built within 50 feet of a public highway.

A bill by Senator Rodgers to establish a censorship of moving pictures.

A bill by Senator Ragsdale to give county authorities more voice in the expenditure of the two-mill road tax and the automobile license tax, reported unfavorably.

Senator Johnstone's bill to provide for reduced licenses for trucks used solely for farm purposes.

**House Bills.**  
Among the more important house bills to come up for discussion is one to provide for paying a deficit of about \$140,000 created by the state superintendent of education is constructing the act giving state aid for teachers' salaries in such a way as to give what practically amounts to back pay to some teachers. A strong fight is being waged against this bill.

Other bills of more or less interest on the house calendar may be summarized as follows:

To provide for women voting in all elections.

To exempt women from jury duty.  
To prohibit state and county officers from expending more than appropriated. The bill, which is authored by Representative Buckingham of Aiken, provides for the removal of any officer violating its provisions.

To abolish truant officers in a great many counties.

To require cotton mills to stop one hour for dinner.

To make notes for purchase money of automobiles a first lien.

To abolish pool rooms.

To amend the state prohibition law to conform with the national law.

To fix a minimum wage for women.

**Tax Extension.**  
Nothing definite has yet been done in regard to the extension of time for payment of taxes. Both the senate and house have passed such bills, but their provisions are different and they will have to be reconciled in some way, which has not so far been done.

Governor Cooper, who has all along been opposed to an extension, on the ground that the State would not be able to meet its obligations, thus impairing its credit, is reported by the daily press as being willing to carry his opposition to the point of vetoing any such resolution.

## DAN WATTS KILLED BY OWN GUN

Well Known Young Man of Gaston Section Found Near Home Dead From Wound.

Dan Watts, aged about 24, son of Sam Watts, a well known farmer living about five miles from Gaston, was accidentally killed last Friday afternoon while out hunting. The gun which he had carried with him was found lying beside him, unbreached with one discharged shell and one loaded shell lying beside it. Just how the accident occurred will never be known, but it is supposed that Mr. Watts had lowered the gun to the ground and in so doing had struck the hammer in some way and discharged the piece. The load entered through the mouth, ranging upward and destroying one eye, penetrating the brain and causing death. The young man's clothes were powder burned.

First reports received in Lexington were to the effect that the young man had been murdered, having been shot in the back by unknown parties. Sheriff Roof was phoned for and asked to bring bloodhounds to the scene. He and his deputy, H. Cromer Oswald, quickly repaired to the scene, accompanied by Dr. G. F. Roberts. Upon their arrival on the scene it was soon learned that young Watts met his death accidentally. The physical facts were such that it would have been impossible to arrive at any other conclusion. The family was so thoroughly satisfied of this that no inquest was held.

Mr. Watts left home Friday afternoon to go hunting. The family became alarmed when he did not return at nightfall, but only a desultory search was made until Saturday morning, when the dead body was located about half a mile from the home.

Besides his mother and father young Watts is survived by several brothers and sisters and a large circle of friends. He was a young man of exemplary character and was popular in his community. Funeral services were held at Sandy Run Baptist church Sunday, conducted by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Whaley and attended by a large crowd of sorrowing friends.

## WOLCOTT-RING CO. HERE ON FEB'Y 8TH.

The fourth number on the current lyceum course will come to the Lexington school auditorium on next Tuesday evening, February 8th, at eight o'clock, at which time Mr. Lu Ring and Miss Helen Louise Wolcott will give to music lovers a real treat.

Mr. Ring is a lyric tenor of national reputation and a violinist of marked ability. Miss Wolcott is a soprano of wonderful range of many years experience in lyceum work and a recognized dramatic reader of great power and expression.

Together they form a forceful lyceum team and their visit to Lexington is looked forward to with keen interest by all patrons of the course and is an unusual opportunity for the people generally to hear a concert by real artists.

The curtain will rise promptly at eight o'clock and it is respectfully requested by the lyceum committee of those desiring to attend that they be seated by that time.

As usual, prices for adults will be seventy-five cents, children thirty-five.

## ORCHARD DEMONSTRATIONS FOR THIS COUNTY

Under the management of Mr. Geo. P. Hoffman of Clemson College, assisted by J. W. Shealy, county agent, orchard demonstrations will be held as follows: A. G. Smith's farm, Edmund, February 8, at 10 o'clock.

Rosco Caughman's residence, Lexington, morning of February 9, 10 o'clock.

Crap's store, afternoon February 9, 2 o'clock.

Mrs. Geo. Hays' residence, February 10, at 10 o'clock.

"We are very anxious for the farmers of these communities to attend these meetings and be instructed how to care for both home and commercial orchards. We are using this means in getting this information to the people, as it will be impossible for us to visit each home."

J. W. SHEALY,  
County Agent.

## SLEET STORM DOES DAMAGE

Telephone Service Seriously Crippled—Fences and Forests Damaged.

The heavy fall of sleet and the freeze accompanying it which struck Lexington last Tuesday evening wrought considerable damage to telephone poles and wires, to wire fences and to the forests. Out of a total of 600 telephones on the Lexington exchange switchboard practically 300 were put temporarily out of commission and it required herculean efforts on the part of the management to get things back in shape again. About two hundred poles along the rural lines were felled by the burden of ice and sleet. Many of these, however, have been replaced and while the service is still not quite up to normal, it is vastly better and is improving daily.

Heavy damage to wire fences and to pine forests is reported throughout different parts of the county, while the roads, particularly in the clay country, have been left in bad fix by the melting ice and sleet.

Weather reports show that this was one of the heaviest falls of sleet ever recorded in this section, though more ice and considerably lower temperatures were experienced in the winter of 1898.

Considerable inconvenience was experienced in the town of Lexington Wednesday night by reason of the failure of the light plant, owing to weather conditions, but the damage was promptly repaired and the lights were on as usual Thursday night.

The only apparent good from the severe spell was the fact that maybe some boll weevils were frozen to death, but when it is considered that each one of these varmints is responsible for an offspring of three million a few more or less left over will make little difference.

From the upper part of the state reports come of a tremendous snow. In Cherokee county as much as eight inches of snow fell, while in Charlotte, N. C., it is said that the snow storm was so severe at times that a person could see only a few feet in front of him.

## PLAY POSTPONED UNTIL THIS FRIDAY NIGHT

The play, "The Minister's Wife's New Bonnet," which had been advertised for last Friday evening, was postponed until Friday night, February 4, on account of the bad weather last week. The play is being given for the benefit of the Main Street M. E. church, Columbia, by Mrs. R. A. Wayne's Sunday school class, and the management of the play states that it will be given this coming Friday night regardless of weather conditions. The price of admission will be 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. Tickets can be had at several of the stores in Lexington.

## MILLER'S TRANSFER CO. IN NEW QUARTERS

Ex-Sheriff Sim J. Miller has opened up a transfer and repair shop in the building next to Meetze & Son's store, and is endeavoring to give the best possible service to his patrons and friends, answering all calls, either day or night.

Mr. Miller will in a few days be prepared to do all kinds of expert repairing on automobiles, having already purchased an up-to-date equipment. His telephone Nos. are shop, 127, residence 161.

## SAXE-GOTHA DOTS.

The health of this little town is very good at present.

Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Berry spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Corley.

Miss Pansy Taylor spent Sunday with Miss Claudia Hendrix.

Mrs. J. Carrie Bailey of Columbia dined with Mrs. J. C. Bailey Sunday.

Miss Ethel Atkins spent Saturday night with Miss Claudie Hendrix.

Misses Elma Day and Sarah Clark spent Sunday with Miss Thelma Rawl.

Mr. Vay Taylor dined with Mr. Quinton Shirey Sunday.

Miss Berlie Day and Mary Goodwin spent Saturday night with Mrs. E. L. Taylor of Lexington.

Miss Claudie Hendrix gave singing and an old time cake walk Saturday night.

## SEARCH SOUTH CAROLINA FOR QUEEN OF PALMAFESTA

Who will represent Lexington county in the contest for Queen of Palmafesta (Palmetto State Festival) to be held in the capital city March 27 to April 2? By means of a popular voting contest through local newspapers during the next four weeks, candidates will be chosen from every county in South Carolina who will go to Columbia as the guests of the Palmafesta Association, which organization will defray all expenses, including railroad transportation, hotel bills and entertainment. The young women will be chaperoned by prominent Columbia society folks and will feature in a week of entertainment and social gaiety which promises to rival the famous New Orleans Mardi Gras. During the week an election will be held in Columbia to determine the most attractive and popular young woman from among the delegates assembled from the various counties. The winner of this contest will be proclaimed Queen of Palmafesta, and will be awarded a grand prize consisting of a complete Spring trousseau of the finest apparel obtainable. One of the leading moving picture companies will film the queen and her entire court, and this specially selected galaxy of South Carolina beauties will be sent far and wide via the movie screen to advertise the Palmetto State.

Palmafesta is to be an annual Spring event, held in the capital city for the entertainment of all the peo-

ple of South Carolina. It will be a week of many and varied attractions, including the State-wide automobile show exhibiting the late models of cars, trucks and tractors; the spring style show, featuring the latest creations from the realm of fashion by professional models to be imported from New York for the occasion; daily band concerts by one of America's premier musical organizations; floral, trades, automobile and baby parades; fetes, dances, social events and special attractions at all theatres, with nightly exhibits of fireworks in which will be featured specially designed set pieces depicting important events in South Carolina history. The auto show, style show and fireworks display will be staged at the State Fair Grounds.

In order to secure the most popular young woman in Lexington County as candidate for Queen of Palmafesta, there is printed below a popularity voting coupon which is to be filled out and mailed as per instructions contained therein. Voting coupons will be printed in each issue of this newspaper up to and including the issue of March 9th, at which time the votes will be counted and announcement of the winner made. There will be no restriction upon the number of votes each person may cast. Every coupon clipped from this newspaper is good for one vote, and a yearly, either new or renewal, paid in advance subscription will count 100 votes.

VOTING COUPON

### Queen of Palmafesta

"PALMAFESTA"  
of The Dispatch-News.

Gentlemen:

My choice for Queen of Palmafesta is:

Name .....

Address .....

This coupon good for one vote. A Yearly, Paid-in-advance Subscription to This Newspaper counts 100 votes.

## LOCAL PRODUCTION WAS SUCCESS IN EVERY WAY

The Japanese Girl visited Lexington on last Monday evening and held a delightful public reception in the school auditorium where, through her Oriental charm and native grace and the attractiveness of her associates, she endeared herself and friends to the townspeople and numbers of their neighbors from the surrounding country who had gathered for the occasion.

To say that the show given by the Lexington girls was a marked success is but to tell the truth without embellishment. The whole performance was characteristic of the smoothness and precision with which a well trained team functions, and at no time was there a single hitch or a loose cog to interfere with the continuity of action.

O Hanu San, Miss Caro Ebird, very effectively portrayed the part of a Japanese girl of position, her two cousins, O Kitsu San and O Kayo San, found faithful and full impersonation in Misses Ernestine Barre and Hattie Lee Wingard, and there could have been no more loyal and attentive servant than Chaya, Miss Sara Mildred Berly.

The Twins, two chic and adventuresome American girls, Misses Pearl Caughman and Cecil Barre, traveling in Japan with their "one hundred per cent." American governess, Miss May Lois Boozer, naturally found a warm place in the heart of the audience both because of their impressive impersonations and on account of the ready appeal of the parts they played.

And to balance the cast and keep the theme from being too joyfully ethered and unreal, Mr. J. A. Barre was wifely, somber and very serious in his impersonation of the Mikado, a man of such severity and stam-

ness. The choral work was unusually good and some of the girls were so featured that when correctly made up and costumed, as they were, there seemed to have been a real transformation into little tipping, bowing, smiling Japanese.

To single out any part of the performance for special mention would be in a sense to do injustice to the remainder of the show, so suffice it to say that it was effectively staged, prettily costumed, and very delightfully and impressively rendered. It is probably the most pretentious production the local girls have ever attempted, and to say that it was eminently successful in even the minutest detail is only just and proper.

Miss Essie Ebird added greatly to the occasion by her artistic work at the piano. And to Mrs. Jno. D. Carroll is due recognition for the training of the cast, the general production of the operetta, and for the idea—for it was she who first suggested having a performance for the benefit of the Legion, and the fulness of her thoughtful preparation for it was abundantly obvious last Monday evening.

The tidy sum of \$191 was realized from the play and turned over to the Legion, less expenses.

## VALENTINE'S PARTY AT STYX'S SCHOOL HOUSE

There will be a Valentine's party, fish fry, and other amusement at Constance school, Styx, Saturday night, February 12, beginning at 6:30 o'clock.

## BON HEUR CLUB.

Mrs. A. D. Martin and Miss Annie Bell Taylor will entertain the Bon Heur club Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

## TAKE NOTICE

To all Cotton Growers of this County:

Restricted exports of American cotton and limited consumption by American mills has resulted in great depression in the price of cotton and in the accumulation of large supplies of the staple all over the South. The only solution of the problem is to stop producing cotton on a normal scale until the spindles of the world are able to operate on a normal basis. No cotton farmer should plant more than one-third of his cultivated land in cotton in 1921. Production of cotton this year must be decreased 50 per cent. so that not exceeding six million bales will be harvested in 1921. Any other policy will be suicidal and will result in untold suffering and continued financial disaster to the entire cotton belt, including farmers, merchants and bankers. The purchasing power of the entire civilized world is lower than it has been during the past one hundred years, as a result of the present financial cataclysm, following the four years of enormous expenditures of the World War and sacrifice of human life.

Large farmers who are holding their 1920 crop for higher prices, should plant no cotton on their lands in 1921. Others should not plant to produce in 1921 more than one-half of their production of cotton in 1920. Quit the cotton game for one year and produce abundant supplies of corn, oats, hay, peas, potatoes, peanuts and other food crops. Raise hogs, cattle and poultry. Live at home one year and economize. Such a policy, if strictly enforced, will result in putting the price of cotton back to living values and will make Southern farmers independent of Western corncribs and smoke-houses.

A half crop of cotton in 1921 means financial independence. Another large acreage in cotton will mean continued financial disaster, wreck and ruin. Sign the cotton acreage reduction pledge and get in line to protect your home and the entire business future of the South. Don't be a slacker in this hour of peril, but prove to the world that Southern manhood can meet and overcome every emergency which confronts them.

THE AMERICAN COTTON ASSOCIATION,  
St. Matthews, S. C., January 5, 1921.