

Spivey Indulges In Senate Levity

POSITION OF SENATOR IS HARD TO ASCERTAIN

Columbia, March 16. Not all that happens in the Senate chamber is serious, and every now and then a stroke of genius is manifested, showing some members of that august body as past-masters in the art of humor.

One day last week Senator John F. Williams, of Aiken, was addressing himself to the Senate on Bill relative to the 6-0-1 law and in the course of his flight of oratory, Senator Spivey of Horry, addressed the chair in the following language:

"Mr. President: Will the senator from Aiken county consent to pause for a moment; cease to function for the time being; curtail the out-put of his eloquence for a sufficient period, in order that I might interrogate him on a very important phase of the intricate question which he is attempting to elucidate?"

The chair: "Will the Senator from Aiken county yield to the Senator from Horry for the purpose of being interrogated?"

"With pleasure" was the prompt reply of the Aiken Senator. "But" said he, "it occurs to me that the Senator with the 'permanent wave' who hails from the 'Independent Republic of Horry,' is rather in the shape I often find myself seems not to know what he wants to say or do. Now, don't intoxicate me on the exuberance of your veracity."

"I trust," said the Horry Senator, "that the Senator from Horse Creek Valley will not get excited; I simply wanted to ask him a very profound question, one of far-reaching importance, the specific answer to which will have an enlightening effect upon this body, and that is, Mr. President, 'If the gentlemen in favor of, or against the bill in question?'—Bishopville Messenger.

W. Mack Moore Makes Statement

E. C. Smith, of Horry, Offers Flattering Sum in Effort to Bribe Prominent Citizen in Allen and Smith Affair

For a long time I felt like I would have nothing to say relative to Allen and Smith trouble which has been existing for some time, but I have decided that it is my duty to make a statement. I am related to both of them and wish them well, but knowing the facts as I do, I am convinced that Mr. Allen has been treated unfairly, and that the proper light should be turned on in order that the public might be correctly informed.

About two years ago, Mr. Smith lost his power to completely control the Horry school. The patrons met and strongly voted in other trustees and asked the County Board to appoint them. The Board of Education appointed the trustees as recommended by the patrons at this meeting. They were good men, but because of this appointment Mr. Smith was dissatisfied. He was not willing for the teachers that were hired by the trustees to teach. He said if the new set of trustees or the County Board would make certain changes in the teachers, he would keep quiet, but if they did not, he would get Mr. Allen out of the office if he had to spend every thing he had. He also made mention of how much money he had, and what he could get. From then until now Mr. Smith has kept up the fight in the community, in the school and finally got in the church.

One thing that makes the above statement seem true, was his effort to bribe or buy over one of the best citizens of the county. Offering him a check if he would turn against Mr. Allen and help him get him out of the office, he would get a check from time to time, in fact he would get well paid. This time he was talking to a man who has religion, a man that money does not buy.

Mr. Allen is out of the office. Mr. Smith's plans must have been effected in some instances. I feel it my duty to say this for the benefit of the public. There is lots more I could say, but I will stop for the present. If this is correct, the following will follow from those not sus-

WILL REBUILD RAIL ROAD

MYRTLE BEACH, April 4. Approximate five hundred thousand dollars will be spent by the Atlantic Coast Line Rail Road Company in rebuilding its line from Conway to Myrtle Beach with eighty-five pound rail, the work having already commenced, in addition to this, around seventy-five thousand dollars will be expended by them in improvements at Conway, including the construction of a new steel bridge and the straightening of its line at that point, according to announcements by E. C. Cocker, Superintendent, John L. Cobb, Jr., Director of Public Relations of the Rail Road Company, and Colonel H. B. Springs, Vice-President of the Myrtle Beach Sales Company, following a conference with these officials Friday.

The Rail Road Company is also strengthening its line between Elrod and Conway, and will in due course make improvements at Myrtle Beach. The work will be completed within three to four months, it is said. These improvements were decided upon on account of the heavy traffic to Myrtle Beach, which it is believed, will rapidly increase in the future.

W. M. U. OF WACCA- MAW ASS'N MEETS

The Woman's Missionary Union of the Waccamaw association held an enthusiastic meeting in the Conway Baptist church on Tuesday, April 5.

All but one of the churches in the association that have W. M. U. organizations were well represented. A sweet devotional was led by Mrs. M. M. Benson; a greeting extended by Mrs. Spider was well responded to by Mrs. Nix of Wateree.

The reports for the quarter were very encouraging. Mrs. Edna Worley, of Loris was elected as associate Supt. of Auxiliaries to succeed Mrs. B. T. Watson who has moved out of the county.

The local missionary society gave a demonstration of How Information Leads to Inspiration, a play written by Miss Vonnie Lance, State W. M. U. Corresponding Secretary. Mrs. Hapazard, bemoaning the lack of interest by her members, is visited by Mrs. Mission Study, who shows her that ignorance is the trouble. She outlines the course of study, and calls in several interesting mission study books, The Challenge to America, Cuba for Christ, Leaven of Japan, China's Real Revolution, etc., each in its appropriate costume, and then the denominational magazines, Baptist Courier, Royal Service, World Comrades, etc. Mrs. Hapazard is impressed, and her enthusiasm runs high.

Mrs. J. B. Boatwright, acting vice president of the Eastern Division made a most helpful talk on the great need of Prayer, Purpose and Plans.

Miss Florence Lido, of Hwang Shien, China, brought a soul stirring message based on Isa. 51:7.

An offering for Furman Infirmary was given.

After the closing prayer, led by Mrs. Boatwright, the local society served a bountiful lunch to their guests and to the members of the Executive Board of the Waccamaw Association.

The next quarterly meeting will be held at Collins Creek in July.

LORIS ROUTE FOUR ITEMS

The health of this neighborhood is in good condition, except the measles are visiting about everybody that haven't had them.

Rev. Degrate Stevens filled his call appointment at Pleasant Grove church Sunday, April 3.

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. N. J. Cox which occurred Wednesday A. M. about seven o'clock, March 26th. Her children, husband, relatives and friends loved her, but there was one loved her better. Her remains were laid in the Carter cemetery Thursday following in the presence of a large crowd of sorrowing relatives and friends.

doubted or responded to, sworn state-

pected:

W. MACK MOORE.

EDMUND D. BIGHAM IS SEN- TENCED LIFE TIME IN PRISON

JURY RECOMMENDS ALLEGED SLAYER OF FIVE TO MERCY AFTER BOTH SIDES AGREE—VERDICT WRITTEN AT DIRECTION OF JUDGE

The Bigham case came to a sudden and dramatic close late Monday afternoon when by agreement between counsel for the state and for the defense the man who has lived almost within the shadow of death for the past six years was given by a jury at least the mercy of life for the balance of his years.

Three long years, however, for Bigham is still a comparatively young man, will be dragged out within the heavy walls of the state penitentiary. Imprisonment for life at hard labor was the sentence pronounced upon Bigham. Previously two juries had sent him to the electric chair. The termination of the case Monday, therefore, was a victory for Bigham, although had the case gone to the jury without the direction of the modified verdict, the result might have been different. The case may have ended in another conviction, or yet again it may have resulted in a mistrial. No body believes an acquittal was ever possible, at least in Horry.

When Judge Smith announced that the attorneys for the state and for the defense had reached an agreement for a directed verdict of guilty with recommendation for mercy, the latter clause saving Bigham's life, the courtroom was stunned. It was several minutes before the spectators realized what was happening. Absolute quiet reigned. A pin could have been heard to fall anywhere in a large courtroom which all day had been restlessly waiting for something to happen; a court room packed with folk who appeared to resent the slowness of the proceedings and to wonder why all this trouble in getting a jury.

As a matter of fact Horry people did not want to serve and they showed it plainly in the excuses they gave Judge Bonham in their response to the voir dire.

The original venire of 36 men was soon exhausted with only seven seats in the jury box filled.

A recess for three hours was taken during which an additional full venire of 36 men was ordered. When court reconvened at 2 o'clock only a dozen of the 36 responded. The effort to impel a jury went on under waivers from the attorneys of their rights. Over fifty of the men called to jury duty declared that they had formal opinions which no evidence could shake. It was remarkable in view of the atmosphere that two of these opinions were favorable to the defendant. Other men were ordered to stand aside because they could not convict on circumstantial evidence. One man was excused on a physician's certificate and another because he had served on the Horry jury which convicted Bigham.

Satisfaction was audible among the spectators when at 4 o'clock in the afternoon juror 12 was sworn and they settled down to await the feast. After the state had called to the witness stand, Walter McWhite, W. W. Purvis, Sherman Myers, Hattie Singletary, and had read the testimony (by agreement) of Dr. W. H. Poston who was prevented from attending the trial by sickness, and they had been duly cross examined, the purpose of the state, he long to prove its case, Judge Smith asked for a conference of the attorneys of both state and defense. In three minutes the attorneys filed back into the courtroom. The air was full of expectancy. Then came the bombshell.

The State of South Carolina has closed the six-year case against Edmund D. Bigham indicted as the slayer of five persons in a tragedy of 1921 which nearly wiped out the family of L. Smiley Bigham, late planter of the Pamphico district and formerly a state Senator.

The state took its exit from the case when it agreed with defense counsel to ask the court to direct the jury to return a verdict of guilty with recommendation for mercy. A few hours after Bigham went on trial a third time for the alleged slaying of his brother, Smiley Bigham, the indictments charging that Bigham murdered his mother Mrs. Margery Black, a sister, and her two little adopted boys were nolle

prosecuted. Bigham, sentenced to life imprisonment following the return of the directed verdict, will be taken back to the state penitentiary where he spent forty seven months in the death house awaiting execution following his conviction of murdering his brother at the two previous trials. Pale and haggard from his six years behind prison bars, Bigham received the sentence bravely and had nothing to say before sentence was passed upon him. He told Judge Milledge L. Bonham, who passed the sentence that his attorneys had spoken for him.

The announcement by Mendel L. Smith, of defense counsel that the state and defense had agreed on the directed verdict brought to a dramatic close the long litigation during which Bigham had three times escaped execution by intervention of the Supreme Court. Twice the verdict of the jury or court was reversed, and another time when sentence had been passed, following refusal of the supreme court to allow a new trial, the high court changed its decision when defense counsel contended that new evidence had been found.

Coming as the sudden climax to a long day which had been spent largely in selecting a jury of 12 men to receive the third trial, the request for a directed verdict completely surprised a large throng of country people and townsmen who had assembled in the courtroom with the expectation that the testimony would drag along through a week or longer as previous trials.

Great difficulty had been experienced in obtaining the jury and two panels of sequestration were called before the jury box was filled. Many of the gentlemen who were disqualified openly declared that they had formed an opinion of the prisoner's guilt, while others said they would not convict upon circumstantial evidence, upon which the state largely had built its case.

Five witnesses heard today before the directed verdict was sought, generally reiterated the testimony of the Dr. W. H. Poston, physician, who was summoned to the Bigham home following the slaying was read by attorneys, Dr. Poston being ill at his home.

In asking the directed verdict, Mr. Smith declared that at this time the defense had decided that it would be best and that no better verdict could be had for the trial. He said that sentiment in this section was unfavorable to the prisoner and that the wish of the defense was to save his life.

Presenting the view of the prosecution, Solicitor L. M. Gasque said that, though he had at first strenuously opposed entering such an agreement, believing that Bigham should be punished for the crime for which he had been twice convicted, the case had been long drawn out and the state did not wish to appear to be seeking blood, and finally succumbed to the request.

Turning to the jury, Judge Bonham said that under a ruling by the South Carolina Supreme Court a man had a verdict if he wished, and he instructed the jury to return a verdict of guilty with recommendation for mercy.

The court was soon adjourned, and the crowds of spectators filed out to return home. Many of them had come from distant parts of the county and from Florence.

The Bigham tragedy occurred on January 15, 1921, when Mrs. M. M. Bigham, her daughter, Mrs. Black, and the adopted children, John and Leo B. Cracker, were found dead in the Bigham home. Edmund Bigham, his wife and daughters were at the home when neighbors arrived and all testified that the mother before dying, told Edmund that Smiley had killed them. The next day the body of Smiley was found on a ditchbank in some woods in front of the house. The state contended that Edmund killed all five in an effort to gain the family property, but the defense asserted that Smiley was the real slayer and had afterwards committed suicide.

Seven or eight persons connected with the case in various ways had died on the witness stand. These occurrences led to a belief in the com-

Seriously Injured In Car Turnover

MISS KATHERINE RICHARDSON AND OTHERS HURT IN WRECK NEAR GEORGETOWN

Georgetown, April 5. Miss Katherine Richardson, a teacher in The Loris school, was seriously injured, and M. J. Bullock, principal and two Misses Cox, badly bruised and cut, when the automobile in which they were riding Saturday night left the road and ran headlong into a ditch on route 40, about 12 miles from Georgetown.

The party was en route from Magnolia Gardens. It appears that a flat tire, and a too sudden turn was the cause of the car's leaving the road. All the windows in the machine were smashed, and the occupants thrown violently against each other. Another auto party which was following close behind, rescued the injured from the disabled machine and took them to Georgetown where they received medical attention. Miss Richardson is still in a serious condition, but it is not thought her injuries will prove fatal.

PETIT JURORS FOR FIRST WEEK

The following is a list of Petit Jurors for the first week of Common Pleas Court to be held at Conway, Monday, April 18th, 1927, His Honor, M. L. Bonham Judge Presiding:

- S. Walker Martin
- J. H. Allen
- Lucian Norris
- Nelson Ford
- Tom Jones
- N. H. Bellamy
- J. H. Sawyer
- Henry O. Paul
- P. D. Boyd
- J. A. Johnson
- Willie Hicks
- J. O. Blanton
- A. T. Johnson
- C. L. Williamson
- L. B. Graham
- L. H. Gore
- Chess Grainger
- D. H. Todd
- J. M. Huggins
- Preston Williams
- Jessie Long
- A. C. Floyd
- Rufus Huggins
- J. W. Alford
- W. J. Stanley
- W. J. Dorsey
- J. Hamp Vereen
- Arthur Clardy
- W. P. Lewis
- Ed. Doyle
- W. H. Gire
- J. M. Huck
- J. F. Outlaw
- Ed. Doyle
- N. R. Hayes
- Sam C. Rabon
- J. P. Caisey

CONWAY GO TO \$1.00 STORE PUTS ON EASTER EXHIBIT

The Conway Go to \$1.00 Store again comes to the front with its exhibit of Easter specialties.

One of the many features of the various Easter rabbits, Easter eggs, Easter baskets, etc. is a Pneumatic Hopping Rabbit. The rabbit is about 4.1-2 inches long, has natural color rubber glass eyes, and is operated with a rubber tube and bulb. When bulb is pressed rabbit hops and raises its ears, giving every appearance of a real live rabbit.

This device will give untold pleasure to the young ones and it is our suggestion that you get one of these before all of them are sold.

There is also on hand a goodly amount of Easter lilies, waxed flowers for the Easter holidays, plenty of Easter cards, both for the young and old folks, and in short anything you wish for the Easter festival.

Again may we suggest that you patronize this ever growing and ever progressive store.

community that supernatural powers had been exerted. Some persons, for the most part negroes, were afraid of third trial, remembering a series of storms and floods occurring here during the second trial. The first trial by a change of venue was held in Florence.

"I want to say to the court and to

(Continued on page 4)

KING EXPLAINS BIGHAM VERDICT

EDMUND STILL MAINTAINS HIS INNOCENCE AS HE HAS FOR SIX YEARS

Florence, S. C., April 6. The compromise verdict in the Bigham case at Conway, in which the defendant accepted a life term in the state penitentiary, was the subject of general comment on the streets of Florence yesterday. Various opinions were expressed.

"Whatever anyone may feel at this time concerning this case," said A. L. King, Bigham's original attorney, who has devoted six years of intensive and intelligent work in behalf of his famous client, "attorneys for the defendant are quite satisfied that the time will come when the efforts that have been put forth to maintain the sanctity of the law and the protection guaranteed under constitutional government will be fully appreciated."

"That Edmund D. Bigham finally consented to a certain avenue of safety, so far as his life is concerned, does not in any sense establish his guilt as a matter of fact. I left him as I found him six and one-half years ago—protesting his innocence, and it is my opinion that time will full vindicate these assertions."

While Mr. King had nothing to say during the presentation to the court of the agreement between the attorneys for the state and the defense, he had, during the day, taken the leading part in the defense of the case as he has for the past six years.

HORRY SON IS HONORED

Orders from headquarters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans have been issued appointing Col. D. A. Spivey of Conway, as Commander of the Third Brigade, South Carolina Division of the S. C. V.

The General Reunion is to be held in Tampa, Fla. during the month of April, while the State confederation will be held at Greenwood, S. C. in May next.

Prominent Speakers Delivers Address

MYRTLE BEACH, April 5. Dr. D. W. Daniel of Clemson College, and Dr. David M. Ramsey, President of Greenville Women's College, among the prominent guests at Myrtle Beach last week end, addressed an appreciative audience Friday night, which filled the dining room of the Seaside Inn to capacity. Both speakers spoke of the greatness of the Myrtle Beach development and praised the men at the head of the project. Mr. Daniel with his characteristic humor, touched on the blue-laws, declaring that "if we could get rid of them," South Carolina's expansion would be more rapid.

Colonel H. B. Springs in his usual gracious style introduced the speakers. He also presented members of the Clemson College faculty who were in the party as follows: Professor and Mrs. D. H. Henry, Professor and Mrs. R. Rhodes and Professor and Mrs. D. D. Duvall, as well as the following guests from Greenville: Mrs. David M. Ramsey, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Callihan, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Galloway, and Mr. and Mrs. John T. Woodside. This was followed with the presentation of Vernon Oswald, the new General Sales Manager, and Mrs. Oswald.

CONTRACTS POSTPONED
MYRTLE BEACH, April 4. Due to the delay in obtaining the printed specifications, it has been found necessary to postpone the letting of the contracts for the development construction work at Myrtle Beach until Thursday, April 14, instead of April 7th, as advertised.

PARENT-TEACHER AS- SOCIATION MEETS

The P. T. A. will hold its April meeting Thursday afternoon from four to five o'clock in the school auditorium. Interesting discussions on Better and Happier Children, and the proper equipment for their play will be held. Very important business is to be transacted, and the president urges all the members to attend.

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