

## LITTLE WORK YET DONE BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### Lack of Coordination Hampers Efforts of Members. Solution of Highway License Fee Problem Now Being Considered.

Columbia, Jan. 26.—With all organization preliminaries completed, the inaugural ceremonies done with, the two messages of the governor heard and all elections held, the general assembly of South Carolina might last week have begun its labors in earnest but did not.

Comparatively few bills have been introduced and of these the great majority are the work of only a few authors, Representative John W. Jennings, of Richland, being to date the leader with an imposing list of new measures, both local and state-wide, to his credit. This fact itself might be turned to considerable advantage and an earlier adjournment promoted should such a condition prevail at the time of the introduction of the annual state supply bill, but such now does not seem likely. The senate last week rejected the proposed two weeks' recess plan and with the list of new bills growing daily both houses are expected to find themselves with heavy calendars by the time the appropriation and new revenue measures may be introduced.

Both houses appear yet somewhat disorganized and the members uncertain as to what they desire; lines have not been drawn. The senate Thursday passed and sent to the lower house a concurrent resolution looking toward the state's acquiring complete control of Clemson college; Friday the resolution was recalled from the house, the senate reversing its action of the previous day by a vote of 24 to 9. In the lower house the lack of organization has been chiefly displayed in the otherwise surprising lack of influence on the part of the house committees; measures, reported unanimously unfavorable, have nevertheless been placed on the calendar and in two instances have been adopted by the house by heavy majorities.

Only with reference to the highway construction program does sentiment appear to be forming. The "pay-as-you-go" road act makes no provision for the construction of county highways except by increased county levies and the increased motor vehicle license fees, carried in the law, have raised a howl of protest not altogether anticipated by the legislature of 1923. To remedy these two putative defects and at the same time to insure to the state highway department income sufficient to construct the planned state highway system has been the problem set before the two houses and after divers starts both seem now to be moving toward substantially the same solution of the problem: a compromise motor vehicle license fee and increased gasoline taxes. The progress, so made however, may in the end prove only an illusion as opportunity has yet to be given for a test vote on the plan in the two houses, either one of which may reject the proposal and so set at naught the labor toward a solution of the problem.

In the senate, there is pending on third reading a bill, introduced by Senators Alan Johnstone of Newberry, James G. Padgett of Colleton and Thomas C. Duncan of Union, providing for an additional two cents a gallon tax on gasoline, the proceeds from which are to go to the construction of county highways. The bill was not contested in second reading but comes up for final consideration with notice of general amendments and the likelihood of no little debate.

In the house two measures have been introduced—one by J. O. Williams of Pickens, to reduce the motor vehicle license to the 1924 level and to allocate one half of the receipts from such license fees to the counties for local road work; the other by T. F. Brantley and J. A. Smith of Orangeburg, carrying a less drastic cut in the license fees. Both measures have been referred to the ways and means committee, which in turn is preparing a measure to reduce the license fees to a schedule beginning with \$9 instead of \$12 and to increase the gasoline tax to five cents, of which one cent is to be given to the counties. This compromise measure, it is estimated, will allow the state highway system approximately the same amount it is now receiving for state roads and will give the counties approximately \$775,000 annually for county highway work.

In the house also, and referred to the judiciary committee, is a joint resolution fathered by A. G. Westbrook of Chester, to allow automobile owners who have not yet paid their license fees an additional 30 days in which to make these payments. Within this 30 days, beginning February 1, it is expected that the general assembly may decide upon a new fee schedule and the time extension would so act to make unnecessary refunds, except to car owners who have already procured licenses.

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## Farms Need Planes



Godfrey Cabot, Pres. of the National Aeronautic Ass'n., tells Congress that airplanes should be developed for agricultural uses, pointing to the recent spraying of 66,000 acres of cotton to kill the boll weevil, as to possibilities.

## HESTERS TO DIE IN ELECTRIC CHAIR

### Three Greenville Men Guilty of Murder and Sentenced to Electrocution On Feb. 27th.

Greenville, Jan. 24.—Jerry, Charlie and Claude Hester were found guilty of first degree murder at 5:45 o'clock this afternoon, in connection with the killing and robbery of J. Ed. Thackston of Montague last December 20. The jury deliberated two hours and four minutes.

A motion by defense counsel for a new trial was refused by Judge Hayne F. Rice, who then proceeded to sentence the three men to die in the electric chair February 27, between the hours of 10 in the forenoon and 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

The court room was thronged to overflowing when the verdict was returned, the crowd remaining while the jury was out. The eldest Hester displayed slight signs of nervousness before and after the verdict and during the sentence, but the sons were calm. Charlie, the older, seemed weighted down by the burden of his trouble, but Claude, the younger, steadfastly chewed gum and gazed around the court room. Jerry Hester's wife, pale of face and wan of countenance, sat by her husband.

Judge Rice in passing sentence, told the defendants, he hoped in the event they were not guilty, the truth would be known before the execution. If they were guilty, he added, the crime was a most brutal one and the punishment fitting.

The Hester case has been distinctive in two ways. It was the first time dictaphone evidence had been admitted in a South Carolina court, so far as local officials know, and it also, so far as they know, was the first time three members of one family have been sentenced to die. Judge Rice remarked upon this latter phase of the case in passing sentence.

## POULTRY CAR THIS MONTH

### County Agent Arranges For Poultry Car From Several Points In County.

Arrangements have been perfected by Fred P. Abbott, development agent of the S. A. L. railway, J. P. Smith, general manager of the Southern Produce and Commission company, and County Agent C. L. Vaughan, for another carload shipment of poultry from this county on January 27, 28, 29. The car will take poultry at Fountain Inn, Gray Court, Laurens and Clinton.

Mr. Smith, speaking of the carload shipment, stated that his company had large plans on foot for assisting in the development of the poultry industry in this section. A large plant has been erected at Hamlet with the view of providing a regular outlet for poultry and eggs from this section of the country. If the proper cooperation is received from the farmers, he said, his company plans to make regular shipments of poultry and eggs from this vicinity so that farmers may have a ready market at all times. He said he hoped that the farmers would go into the poultry industry on a larger scale, as he believes it one of the best and surest money crops that the farmer can have.

## TERM WILL BE FOR ECONOMY

### President Coolidge In Speech Dedicates Period In Office To Costs Production.

Washington, Jan. 26.—The four years of administration upon which President Coolidge enters March 4 were dedicated by the executive tonight to a reduction of the tax burden, a decrease in federal expenditures, and "continuing pressure for economy" within the government.

Speaking before the regular semi-annual meeting of executives and administrative officials of the government, Mr. Coolidge declared that if congress sustained the current budget recommendations for expenditures he would be able next fall to propose a further cut in taxes. The president expects a surplus of \$373,000,000 in the fiscal year 1926, and on that basis, he asserted, further tax relief should be granted. He warned, however, that any new and unnecessary expenditures would upset the plans of the treasury now seemingly assured of success.

The president also told the officials that hereafter there must be a policy within the government of getting more work done with fewer workers. He said there could be no cut in the compensation of the workers and that the only hope of reducing a payroll that last year aggregated \$1,680,000 was to reduce the number on that payroll.

An increasing cost of government through natural expansion of the nation, the president regarded as obvious. He declared, however, that the increases in governmental cost must not advance "dollar to dollar" with the increasing revenues assumed to come from increased business and emphasized that the increasing load on the government could not be used as the excuse for added expenditures except where absolutely necessary.

The proceedings of the meeting of federal officials, including the president's address, were broadcasted by radio from ten stations throughout the country.

## BELOVED WOMAN CALLED TO REST

### Mrs. Gertrude King Passes After a Long Illness At Residence of Her Daughter.

Mrs. Gertrude King died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. E. L. Chandler, last Thursday morning, after a long illness. She was 84 years of age, having been born in Rye, N. Y., April 1, 1841. The funeral was held Friday morning at eleven o'clock and interment took place in the Presbyterian cemetery, the service being conducted by Dr. D. J. Woods, of this city.

All that loving hands and the care and attention of a kind physician and faithful nurse could do, were done for her, but God saw best to call her "Home," and she passed into the Great Beyond calmly and peacefully. She was kind and gentle and highly esteemed and loved by all that knew her. Notwithstanding the fact that she was bedridden for nine months, she was always cheerful and greeted everyone with a smile, until she suffered a stroke of paralysis last week, after which she was never fully conscious. She was not only a beautiful character, but a sincere Christian.

The news of the death of Mrs. King will be received with the most sincere regret, and the sympathy of her friends is extended to her relatives who mourn her loss. She is survived by a number of grandchildren, and the following children: Mrs. Carrie L. Stone, Atlanta, Ga.; Mrs. T. D. Ramage of Laurens; Messrs. M. T. and C. M. King of Newberry, and Mrs. E. L. Chandler of this city.

## MUST REPORT TAX RETURNS ON TIME

### Collector of Internal Revenue Announces No Extensions For Filing Income Tax Reports.

Major John F. Jones, collector of internal revenue, announces that he wishes to call special attention to the fact that under the revenue act of 1924 collectors no longer have any authority to grant extensions of time in which to file income tax returns. The commissioner of internal revenue at Washington only is authorized to grant an extension and only then when application thereof is made before the date prescribed by law for filing the return.

Collector Jones said that in the past his office had granted hundreds of extensions on account of sickness, absence from the state and other legitimate causes rendering inability to file returns by March 15, and that since the new law carries no such provision he desired to bring the matter to the attention of the taxpayers that they might take such precautions as to avoid incurring penalties on account of failing to file returns within the time required.

## BOY SLAYER GIVEN LIFE SENTENCE

### Asbury Wessinger, 14, Faces Life-time Behind Prison Bars Following Verdict of "Guilty."

Lexington, Jan. 23.—A life-time behind prison bars faces Asbury Wessinger, 14-year-old youth of New Brookland, following his conviction here on a charge of murder in connection with the slaying last September of his aunt, Mrs. Lina Wessinger.

After one hour's deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of "guilty, with recommendation to the mercy of the court." Judge J. Henry Johnson sentenced the boy to serve his life time either in the State penitentiary or on the chain gang in Lexington County.

Young Wessinger displayed no emotion when the verdict was read. He looked about the little court room, first at his father, then at the presiding judge, but said nothing. His mother, who had collapsed earlier in the day, was not in the court room when the sentence was passed.

The trial, which began yesterday afternoon, consumed less than two days.

Mrs. Wessinger was slain on the afternoon of September 10, at her home near New Brookland. At the same time her three young children were attacked and though each was seriously injured, they recovered.

Young Wessinger, questioned immediately after the tragedy, declared that a "tall, black negro," committed the crime. A posse was organized and throughout the night a search was made for the "tall, black negro."

The following day, the youth, again questioned, confessed that his story of the tall negro was a hoax and that he, himself, had fatally injured his aunt with an axe and attacked her three small children. Questioned as to his motive for the slaying, he told the officers that he "lost his temper" when he failed to find a knife, which he said, he had lost while visiting the home of his aunt.

## ASSAULT SHERIFF AND LEAVE JAIL

### Three Escape Prison At St. Matthews And Lock Sheriff Frank Hill Inside.

St. Matthews, Jan. 26.—Officers of Calhoun county conducted a wide spread search today for three prisoners who last night knocked Sheriff Frank Hill unconscious and locked him up in the jail with his own keys. Sheriff Hill had recovered today and was able to join in the search, which, he stated, is expected to place the men again behind the bars.

At the call of one of the prisoners, who had feigned illness, the sheriff went to the jail about nightfall with food taken from his own kitchen for the prisoner. When he entered the door of the jail a companion of the reported sick prisoner struck the sheriff with a blunt implement. They then disarmed the officer, and are thought to have liberated a negro prisoner in another compartment.

The escaped prisoners are Lawrence Reed and Banton Bosh, both of New York, who were held for larceny of an automobile, and Dockey Wilson of Cameron, Calhoun county.

The sheriff recovered consciousness shortly after the escape, and gave the alarm. It required some time to find keys that would open the jail door, but at length the sheriff was a free man. Throughout the night and through the day the search continued, with neighboring cities and towns warned against the escapes, who were characterized as dangerous men.

## SAYS PROSPERITY RESTS ON FARMER

### Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture Says That Agriculture Is Backbone of Nation.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 26.—That the prosperity of the farmer is very closely linked with the prosperity of the nation was pointed out here today by Hon. J. J. Brown, Georgia's commissioner of agriculture, in referring to the fact that the "Great American Farmer" becomes again a commanding figure in the business situation.

So long as the farmer can produce large crops and get good prices for them the country will move forward toward general prosperity, the commissioner said. It is important, therefore, the commissioner showed, that the farmer has every opportunity to get along.

"He is the backbone of the nation's business as well as the chief support of the nation's breadbasket," declared Commissioner Brown.

There are years when the farm industry suffers, when crops fall off, or pests take the major portion of the crops, or the price manipulators cut the farmer out of his just due, or drought or floods do damage, according to the commissioner. These are the lean years for all, he asserted.

## Shot Her Mother



Dorothy Ellingson, 16, of San Francisco, who shot and killed her mother in a quarrel because of objections to her night life. Dorothy admits she is a "Jazz Maniac" and shows no remorse at her act. The night she killed her mother she went to a dance. Two days later she was located in a cheap rooming house. Her father and brother advocate hanging or life imprisonment for her.

## ALL PLANS FAIL TO REOPEN BANK

### Abbeville Institution To Go To Receiver Following National Bank Examiner's Report.

Abbeville, Jan. 25.—All plans for reopening the National bank here have failed and the institution will have to go into the hands of a receiver for liquidation, according to a statement issued this afternoon by E. F. Roerbeck, chief national bank examiner of the Fifth federal reserve district. Mr. Roerbeck believes prospects are excellent for a substantial dividend to depositors.

L. J. Bailey, examiner in charge of the bank since it closed, has been recommended for appointment as receiver. "Although," Mr. Roerbeck says, "the comptroller of the currency may have other plans. I can not tell and will not know until I reach Washington and talk matters over with him. A receiver may be appointed tomorrow or it may be two or three days. At any rate the receivership will not go to a local man," concluded Mr. Roerbeck. Mr. Roerbeck left at 5 this afternoon for Washington.

The Abbeville National bank, the oldest bank in the county, J. Allen Smith, Sr., president, closed its doors about two weeks ago after a run had been started by large depositors following the resignation of Lewis Perrin, cashier, and his departure for Florida on a prospecting trip. When Mr. Perrin was notified by his friends of the turn of affairs in the bank had taken, he returned without delay to help restore the confidence of the people.

The statement of the chief examiner is as follows:

"All plans for reopening the National Bank of Abbeville have failed and its liquidation under a receivership will be made. The prospects for a substantial dividend to the depositors are excellent and even under a receivership they will undoubtedly receive a very substantial percentage of their claims."

It is reported deposits amounted to nearly half a million dollars.

Rumors that the Planters' bank would serve as receiving agent have been found to be false, though it is understood efforts were made on the part of the local institution to be permitted to act in this capacity.

## CLOSING OUT SALE IS ANNOUNCED

### Adair-Sumerel, Well Known Ladies Wear Store, To Quit Business

The well known firm of Adair-Sumerel announces the opening this morning of a closing out sale that promises to attract interest throughout the county. This is a quit-business sale on the part of the firm and it is announced that the sale will continue until the entire stock is sold.

The stock of goods is thrown on the market at prices that will attract people and compel a liberal buying. The story is told in a page advertisement in today's paper and will be read with interest, at the same time carrying regret on the part of many that this popular store plans to soon liquidate and retire from business.

## HEAVY WEEVIL CROP EXPECTED

### Director of Control Fears Destructive Army If Weather Favors. Immunity Cannot Be Expected.

New Orleans, Jan. 24.—The boll weevil will emerge from hibernation to develop into a destructive army if the weather in April, May or June of 1925 favor weevil development, and the drought of the summer of 1924 will not assure freedom from weevil menace to cotton this year, it was declared tonight by Director Outsey, director of the National Boll Weevil Control, after a visit to the United States Department of Agriculture's boll weevil experiment station at Tallulah, La.

The statement follows: "Contrary to a popular impression which seems rather widespread, there is no good reason for cotton farmers to expect in 1925 immunity from the boll weevil. Last year's conditions were happily unfavorable to weevil development and favorable to cotton growers. It is about one such experience in thirty years to assume that it would be repeated in 1925 to make a very dangerous gamble. On the other hand by the practice of the cultural methods now thoroughly tested and demonstrated in every cotton state by the practice of the presses of control by poison fully tested and widely demonstrated, the cotton belt by intelligence and industry need have no fear of being able to control the boll weevil, provided only that the farmers do not trust to the luck of weather, but make the most of the information which has been gathered for them by painstaking research and confirmed by the best farmers in every cotton community.

"After a visit to the United States Department of Agriculture's experiment station at Tallulah, La., and consulting the records there, I find there has been a variable crop of boll weevils going into hibernation. In typical regions in the West of the cotton belt, the number is rather small in some sections and about average in others. East of the Mississippi river the numbers are much larger and in some parts of the Southeast are very large.

"Observations of survival to this date show variable results. Generally speaking, the survival is no larger than in the years for which records have been kept; that is, from 1915 to 1924. For example, it varies from sixteen at Tallulah, La., to 104 a ton of moss at Washington, La., for the period of late October to the middle of December. At St. George, S. C., at the middle of December it was 192 and in the region of Valdosta, Ga., it was thirty-eight. These figures merely indicate the varying circumstances of weather and of local conditions.

"It remains to be seen at the close of the winter, that is about the last of February or the first of March, how many weevils will finally emerge for the spring attack upon the cotton crop, but there is not the slightest reason in the experience of thirty years nor in the minutest observations and records of the scientists to believe that the weevil had been eradicated or been reduced below the point of danger. Whatever the number of weevil in hibernation and whatever percentage of emergency, all experience teaches that enough weevils will merge to develop speedily into a destructive army if the weather in April, May, and June favors weevils development.

"In most of the cotton belt, except the Southeast, present conditions, if followed by average February cold and by average March and April weather, promises a bottom crop. That is to say, unless there is abnormal emergencies or abnormal weevil development, we may expect in most of the cotton belt enough squares to be put on in the early part of the growing season to mature a few bolls on the bottom of the plant. But a bottom crop is not a crop. It will hardly pay the cost of planting, much less the cost of cultivating.

"In all the regions under review which promise the best results on the records of hibernation and survival there remains the deadly menace of a rainy May and June which will develop weevils fast enough to prevent the setting of bolls sufficient for a normal crop."

## FEBRUARY MEETINGS AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Billy Sunday meetings for the month of February will be held in the First Presbyterian church, the hour being two o'clock every Sunday afternoon. For next Sunday, Dr. T. L. W. Bailey has been announced as the leader and will address the club.

## IN ATLANTA THIS WEEK

Dr. L. Ross Lynn has been spending several days this week in Atlanta in the interest of the Thornwell Orphanage.