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VOLUME XLVIII.

BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1925

NUMBER 25

Grand Jury Renews Recommendation as to Consolidation

The following is the presentment of the Grand Jury:
To the Honorable W. H. Townsend, Presiding Judge:

The Grand Jury for the County having performed all of its work for the present term begs leave to report as follows:

We have passed upon and returned to the Court all indictments handed us by the Solicitor.

We have made the usual investigations of the Poor House and Jail and we find everything at each place in first class condition. However, we recommend that at the Jail yard the fence, back kitchen porch, wash-shed and a small house in the yard, be repaired. We recommend that the County Directors furnish Mr. Main, the Jailor, a proper amount of lumber and covering for this purpose. Mr. Main, the Jailor, is capable of doing the needed repairs and we recommend that he be engaged for this purpose and that proper compensation be paid him for his work in this connection.

The Grand Jury again recommends that the plan relative to the Poor Yard, which was suggested in our last report, be carried out and to that end we have appointed a Committee, Dr. B. W. Sexton, R. R. Johnston and R. J. Rountree, to confer with representatives from Aiken and Bamberg Counties, looking towards the end of having a District Poor Yard.

We have also appointed a Committee consisting of S. H. Ussery and W. M. Cook to look after the Chain-gang.

We ask that the Grand Jury be furnished by the County Directors with a competent Auditor to help them audit the books of the County offices. We cannot make the necessary audit without the services of a competent Auditor.

We also renew our recommendation that the Treasurer of Barnwell County require each Bank with whom he deposits County funds to furnish him with a Surety Bond, to protect such deposits as he makes with them.

It has come to our body that some of the County equipment provided for the up-keep of the roads, is being put to private use. We recommend that such use of the public property be immediately discontinued.

We also request that the County Board of Directors meet with the Grand Jury at the next term of Court, as there are numerous matters that it would be advisable for the two bodies to confer with each other in regards to.

We desire to thank the Honorable Presiding Judge, the Solicitor and the other Officials for their kind assistance rendered us in our deliberations, all of which is

Respectfully submitted,
R. J. ROUNTREE,
Foreman.

Barnwell, S. C., Feb. 17, 1925.

Judge Townsend Presiding.

It is good to see Judge W. H. Townsend, of Columbia, in Barnwell again. He is presiding at the present term of the Court of General Sessions and conducts the business of that tribunal with all the grace and dignity of a gentleman of the old school. He practiced his profession here for many years, before moving to the capital city and Barnwell is justly proud of him and is always glad to welcome him "home."

Suffers Painful Injury.

Mrs. A. D. Connor had the misfortune to break her right leg just above the ankle Friday afternoon at her country home near Barnwell. She was gathering eggs in the yard and stepped on a round piece of wood, which turned under her foot and caused her to fall. Her friends will be glad to know that she is getting along splendidly and it is hoped that she will soon be entirely recovered.

Farm Work is Backward.

The very inclement weather that has prevailed in this section since the beginning of the New Year has retarded farm work to a great extent and a motor ride on any of the roads out of Barnwell will show that comparatively little land has been "broken" for the new crop. It is to be hoped that the adage that "a bad beginning makes a good ending" will hold true in this instance.

Appropriation Bill Introduced Tuesday

The annual State appropriation bill—carrying appropriations amounting to \$6,493,746.30 and contemplating total appropriations of \$8,993,746.30—will be introduced today in the house of representatives by the way and means committee, it was announced last night by C. D. Nance of Laurens, chairman of the committee.

The difference of the total carried in the bill and the total contemplated by the committee is to be explained by the omission from the bill of \$2,500,000.00 in State aid for schools, which is to be raised instead by a direct State tax of six mills under provisions of the McLaurin-Riley bill now pending on the house calendar. This measure, which would amend the so-called 6-0-1 school law so as to provide for the raising of school funds by a six mill State tax, a four mill county tax and the three mill constitutional tax, has been approved by the house on second reading and is now on third reading. Only about \$2,500,000.00 is expected to be produced by this proposed six mill educational tax and the appropriation bill includes therefore for the department of education appropriations of approximately \$642,000 to make up this deficit. Should the McLaurin-Riley measure fail of passage this item would be increased to \$3,142,000 and the total of the appropriation bill to the \$8,993,746.30.

The actual appropriation total carried in the measure is considerably below the amount of any recent appropriation bill and the contemplated total of \$8,993,746.30 is \$139,124.57 below the 1924 appropriation bill total, \$708,063.46 below the governor's budget recommendations and \$2,510,300.90 below the departmental requests for the year. It exceeds the 1923 appropriation total by \$1,621,407.61.

Despite the decrease as provided by the committee under the governor's recommendations there remains yet a deficit of approximately \$1,625,000 to be raised either by direct taxes or by additional indirect taxes and it is to this problem that the ways and means committee will next address itself. Already before the committee is a bill proposing a tax on soft drinks, which it is expected by its author will produce approximately \$1,500,000 annually. This estimate, however, is considered by various members who have been studying the problem too high and other indirect taxes will also be required to meet the deficit expected. Among measures suggested have been a tax on chewing tobacco and snuff, omitted from the present tobacco tax and a tax on cosmetics. None of these measures—the soft drinks tax excepted—have reached the first reading stage.

Final approval of the appropriation bill was given by the committee last night, the session resulting in one minor cut in the appropriation total. At about 11 o'clock the committee adjourned and the bill goes today again to the engrossing department for final engrossing and should be ready for introduction. Mr. Nance said, this afternoon.—The State, Feb. 17.

Brother and Sister Die Within 2 Days

After several months of ill health, Mr. E. C. Cave, of Barnwell, died at his home here at nine o'clock Wednesday night. His body was laid to rest the following afternoon in the Barnwell Baptist Churchyard, Dr. W. M. Jones, conducting the funeral services. Mr. Cave, who was in the mercantile business, is survived by his wife, three sons, two daughters, three brothers and two sisters, as follows: Mr. John Cave, of Deland, Fla.; Mr. Wm. Henry Cave, of Lowndes, Fla.; Mr. Augustus Cave, of Portland, Oregon; Mrs. James F. Green, of Jacksonville, Fla.; and Mrs. W. D. Morton, of Plymouth, Fla.

Death of Mrs. H. S. Baxley.

Mrs. H. S. Baxley, of Gainesville, Fla., a sister of Mr. E. C. Cave, of this city, who died Wednesday night, followed him to the grave two days later, being claimed by the Grim Reaper at her Florida home Friday night. Her body was brought to Barnwell Sunday and laid to rest the following day at 11 o'clock in the Easterling Cemetery, near Barnwell, Dr. W. M. Jones conducting the funeral services. Mrs. Baxley, who was 47 years of age, is survived by her husband, one son, three brothers and two sisters.

Economic and Social Changes of a Century Discussed by One Who Has Lived to Observe Them

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow."

It is the exception that proves the rule.

Thomas Washington Coward, of the Millbrook section of Aiken County, will on Friday, February 13th, celebrate his ninety-third birthday, and his "age is as a lusty winter, frosty, but kindly."

Mr. Coward was born in Barnwell County in 1832, there spending his boyhood days. Later he moved to Aiken and was married to Miss Frances Burckhalter in December, 1856. Mrs. Coward died March 25, 1874, leaving eight children, five of whom are now living. Mr. Coward later married Miss Josephine Owens, of Dunbarton, and to this union there were born four children, all of whom are living.

Recently the writer spent a very pleasant afternoon with Mr. Coward at his home on his farm. Mr. Coward was sitting on his front porch, reading his Bible, and was apparently glad to have a visitor. There in the sunshine we sat and talked, and from him I learned something of the economic and social changes occurring within the past century.

"There wasn't much school in my time," he said. "I only went a few months in my life. I walked about four miles to school and went at sunrise and never got home until sundown. Very little attention was paid to education then. Instead of going to school, people saved up their money and bought negroes. When a strange young man came into a community folks always asked, 'How many negroes has his daddy got?' No one ever asked anything about the man himself. I never owned a slave. My mother and my relatives owned slaves, but I never owned one myself."

"Along about 1856 I became conductor on the train running from Charleston to Hamburg. Railroad then wasn't anyways like it is today. Our engine was about the size of that Ford out there. We burned wood, mostly green wood. The crew was white, except a negro fireman. Usually the engineer owned the negro fireman. The engineer always preferred a negro fireman to a white man, because he could knock him around and make him do like he wanted him to. The flagman wasn't called a flagman, he was known as 'conductor's man.' We had two brakes on the train, one on the engine and the other on the rear coach. The rails were made of wood with a strip of ribbon iron about as thick as a cotton tie tacked on them. I ran on that road until 1865, with the exception of about four months in the cavalry around Pocotaligo. When Sherman marched through South Carolina he tore up the track from Charleston to Montmorenci—until Joe Wheeler stopped him at Aiken. I was coming out of Hamburg that morning and when our train got to the lower bridge at Aiken, old man Oakley waved us down and told us the Yankees were then fighting near the edge of town. We stopped long enough to hear the shooting and then backed the train back to Graniteville. I never will forget that day."

Hears of Lincoln's Death.

"I was boarding my train the morning I heard Lincoln had been killed," continued Mr. Coward. "All of our people seemed glad to hear it at that time, because naturally they hated the Yankees. We didn't realize that it was the worst thing that could have happened to us. If Lincoln had lived there wouldn't have been any Carpet-bag Days. They were worse, than war."

"Slavery had to be abolished. God put up with it as long as He could, and then He brought on the war to end it forever in this country. The abolition of slavery gave the poor white man his chance to buy land and own a home. Up until that time, when land was for sale the wealthy planters would buy it up just to keep the small man from getting any. The system wasn't right and it just couldn't go on."

"Somehow, I can't get used to the present system of farming. I believe that a four-horse farm is the ideal size. It just about fits in with the capital and labor of the average man.

What money I have made, I made it on ten-cent cotton. I never gave or took a mortgage in my life. I hate debt worse than almost anything else in the world. Over at the Agricultural Club the other day I heard about the Intermediate Credit Bank, and how farmers could get cheaper and longer credit. I wonder if farmers ever will learn to work together."

Times Have Changed.

"Times have certainly changed. These young folks beat me. When I was young, children obeyed their parents. Now, the parents obey their children. I think the parents are pretty much to blame for this condition. Parents certainly ought to be advisors to their children. Time was when children were glad to see Christmas come. Now, it's Christmas all the time. When I was a boy, all I wanted was a quarter to get some powder and shot and I was happy."

"I think the Rural Free Delivery was the greatest thing ever done for the farmer. Now, I get my mail every morning. I subscribed to the Augusta Chronicle in 1859, and have been a subscriber continuously for the past 66 years. I used to read it when it was a little weekly and have seen it grow to its present size. (The Honorable Thos. J. Hamilton will of course contend that The Chronicle is entirely responsible for Mr. Coward's growing into that serene content men call age.)"

Likes Proverbs Best.

"My eyes are getting dim, but I still read the daily paper and my Bible. I like Proverbs best of all the Bible. When I am worried about something, I read Proverbs and I always get relief. I never have seen but one moving picture. It hurts my eyes too bad. Some of my friends want me to get a radio, but I am afraid I will get to staying up at night with it. I never was much to frolic around at night and I don't want to begin now. I haven't been away from home at night in some years. I like my bed best. I have a feather bed, and it suits me. My grandmother raised the geese and picked the feathers."

"I am not as active as I once was. The only thing I am afraid of is that I may get to be helpless before I die. I am not afraid of death," he added. "No, I am not afraid to die."

Hale and hearty at 93. Deeply appreciative of all that is past, but keenly alive to the present and expectant of the future:
So I left him there in the sunshine, and to me he is worthy to dwell with Cicero's heroes, for he, too, has learned "the art of living joyfully and of dying with a fairer hope."—Henry S. Johnson in the South Carolina Gazette.

Social and Personal News from Williston

Williston, Feb. 14.—The women of the Williston Presbyterian Church served a waffle supper last Tuesday evening, which netted a nice sum for church work.

Miss Louise Prothro entertained the Martha Watson Chapter, D. A. R., at its February meeting. Mrs. G. C. Matthews, first vice president, presided in the absence of Mrs. Smith, regent, who is in California, recuperating from a recent illness. A card from Mrs. Smith was read, stating that she is improving daily. The chapter was glad to have added to its roll the names of Mrs. J. L. Shuler and Mrs. J. H. E. Milhous. Miss Prothro assisted by her mother and several friends, served a salad course with coffee, followed by sweets. Mrs. W. C. Smith, Jr., will entertain the March meeting, instead of Mrs. W. G. Thompson, Jr., who is also in California.

W. C. Woodward, of Greenville, paid a flying visit to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Woodward, last week. Owen Faust has returned from a visit to Jacksonville.

Mr. and Mrs. Fuller Dicks, of Columbia, were recent visitors of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Matthews.

J. W. Folk was a visitor in Rock Hill last week and was accompanied back by his daughter, Miss Jennie Lou Folk, a student at Winthrop College, who has had to return home on account of eye trouble.

Mrs. M. L. Bolick and son, Robert,

Budget of Interesting News from Ellenton

Ellenton, Feb. 14.—Mrs. Joe Ashley is visiting her mother while Mr. Ashley is in Atlanta.

Messrs. H. M. Cassels, Jr., and Mack Walton have returned from a business trip to Athens.

The Baptist Missionary Society held its monthly meeting with Mrs. F. D. Bush Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. R. D. Mayes, Mrs. M. Bush and Mrs. Russell Bailey entertained the U. D. C. at the home of Mrs. Bailey last Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Keenan and Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Boswell were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Z. D. Miller Sunday.

Misses Mary Ellen Atkinson and Lucyle Dye were in Augusta for a while last Friday evening.

The friends of Mrs. Roy McElhenry regret to know of her illness with pneumonia and hope that she will soon be restored to health. She and Mr. McElhenry are receiving congratulations on a fine daughter, Sarah Ellen. Miss Kathleen McElhenry, from the University hospital, is pursuing Mrs. McElhenry.

Mrs. F. C. Brinkley is recovering from an attack of grip; also Mrs. Carrie Ashley and Mrs. Harvell. It is hoped that they will soon be out again.

Misses Gladys and Bessie Owens spent last week-end with their parents in Aiken.

Messrs. Eugene Buckingham, T. S. Dunbar and Joe Ashley have gone to Atlanta on business.

Miss Helen Brabham has been visiting her sister, Mrs. P. H. Buckingham.

Miss Mary Quarles, of Allendale, was the guest of Mrs. H. M. Cassels, Jr., last week-end.

Miss Mary Foreman, of Allendale, has been visiting her sister, Mrs. N. S. Brinkley.

Mr. Malcolm McLeod, of Beaufort, and Miss Elizabeth McLeod, from S. N. S., Athens, Ga., are with their mother, having been called here on account of the very sad death of their father.

Miss Louise Cassels spent Saturday in Augusta.

Mr. and Mrs. Tut Wiley are making their home at the Mayes boarding house. Mr. Wiley is a chemist for the gravel companies.

Mrs. W. B. Cassels and little son, Horace, were in Augusta Tuesday.

The Rev. R. H. McKinnon has returned from a visit to his mother in Columbia.

Mr. Clyde Herndon was in Aiken on business Saturday.

Miss Thelma Dye was the attractive guest of her aunt in Augusta last week-end.

Death of Mrs. Easter Still.

The people of Hercules and surrounding community were shocked and saddened when the death angel visited the home of Mr. Frank L. Still on January 23rd and bore away the spirit of his dear wife, Mrs. Easter Still. Besides her husband, she is survived by eight children, Mrs. N. A. Hiers, Mrs. M. L. Hutto, Mrs. B. A. Gunnels, Mrs. J. J. Huggins, Mrs. W. H. Dyches, Mrs. J. T. Creech, Mr. W. H. Still and Mr. A. B. C. Still; 37 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She was possessed of a sweet and gentle disposition and was dearly loved by all. She will be greatly missed in the home, community and Sunday school.

A Friend.

Robbery Suspects Arrested.

State Detective W. W. Rogers has notified Sheriff Boncil H. Dyches of the arrest at Springfield of Davis Jerry and Elliott Jerry, colored, stating that he thinks they were implicated in the robberies at Blackville on the night of January 17th. The two negroes were wanted in Orangeburg, so cannot be turned over to authorities in this county until their case has been disposed of there.

have returned to their home in Hickory, N. C., after a visit of several weeks to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Weathersbee.

Mrs. Willie Hay, of Govan, is visiting her brother, S. W. Trotti.

Q. A. Kennedy, W. D. Black, of Williston, and H. D. Calhoun, of Barnwell, left this week on the bankers' special Pullman for a tour of Florida. The car left Columbia Thursday morning and carried bankers from various parts of the State.

Heyward B. Bates Is Acquitted of Murder of Cater M. Rountree

Mr. Bates Acquitted.

After deliberating only a short while, the jury in the case of The State vs. Heyward B. Bates brought in a verdict of acquittal about 8:30 o'clock Tuesday night.

The Court of General Sessions convened here Monday morning with Judge W. H. Townsend, of Columbia, presiding. The first case called for trial was that of Heyward B. Bates, of Dunbarton, who was charged with the murder of C. M. Rountree, also of Dunbarton, on the streets of that town last October. Solicitor Berte D. Carter, of Bamberg, was assisted in the prosecution of the case by former Solicitor Robt. L. Gunter, of Aiken, and Brown & Bush, of Barnwell. The defense was represented by Harley & Blatt, of Barnwell, and Congressman James F. Byrnes, of Aiken.

When Court adjourned Monday afternoon, the State had examined all of its witnesses, the eye-witnesses testifying to practically the same state of facts—that Bates shot Rountree twice while the latter was running. From the method of cross-examination it was seen that the defense sought to establish that certain things occurred just prior to the shooting that were not noticed by the State's witnesses.

According to the evidence produced by the State, Mr. Rountree and his little son were on their way home when the homicide occurred; that Mr. Bates, accompanied by his 12-year old son, Fred, drove up in his automobile and, stopping his car in the middle of the street, took a shot gun from the rear of the car and fired two shots at Mr. Rountree; that Mr. Bates then got back in his car and drove off.

The defense sought to show that Mr. Rountree was attempting to crawl a pistol when Mr. Bates fired the first shot and that the pistol fell to the ground. This was testified to by Mr. Bates and his son.

The defense closed its case at the Tuesday morning session of Court and arguments were begun before the dinner recess. Congressman Byrnes made the closing argument for the defense and Mr. Gunter for the State. The case went to the jury about 8 o'clock.

The court room was crowded throughout the trial, more interest being shown than at any trial in the past few years.

True Bills.

The Grand Jury completed its work for this term Tuesday afternoon, its members being discharged until the May term of Court. The following is a list of the True Bills returned:

Martin Renew, violation of the prohibition law.
Bill Hartley, violation of the prohibition law.

Hamp Jennings, violation of the prohibition law.

Mack Jones, violation of the prohibition law.

Robert Cave, violation of the prohibition law.

Hammie and Sam Garvin, violation of the prohibition law.

Italy Simpkins, violation of the prohibition law.

E. H. Jenkins, disposing of property under lien.

William Washington, disposing of property under lien.

M. H. Lee, drawing check without funds.

Mack Creech and Geo. Grubbs, assault and battery with intent to kill.

James, alias Bright Thomas, assault and battery with intent to kill.

George Steverson, Sr. and Jr., violation of the prohibition law.

Freddie Snelling, C. R. Snelling, Herbert Snelling, Elijah Snelling, Ransom Snelling, Sr., Lank Williams and Henry Dunbar, murder.

Ezekiel Holly, larceny.

Milledge Odom, breach of trust with fraudulent intent and grand larceny.

No Bills.

Jasper Newman, violation of the prohibition law.

Herman Cook and Coy Brabham, violation of the prohibition law.

Mr. R. A. Easterling and family, of Denmark, spent Sunday in the city with his mother, Mrs. Julia B. Easterling.