

**WHAT "BUTTERFLY" LEGISLATURE DID.**

(Continued from page 2, column 2.)  
sought for by the farming interests; (13) the adoption of the injunction plan in the effort to suppress houses of ill-fame; (14) the forcible treatment of lewd women with venereal disease. (These two latter are among the measures strongly urged by Governor Manning and very much wanted by the federal administration), and mark a long stride forward in the handling of the vice problem; (15) the proposition of recording and validating all bond issues, and the Sherard bill allowing municipalities to own property, including water works systems and the like.

On the other hand, among what was not done might be classed hurriedly: (1) provision for bi-annual sessions; (2) State-wide compulsory education; (3) physical examination of children at school; (4) bone-dry prohibition; (5) suppression of the sale of patent and proprietary medicines that intoxicate; (6) the passage of a 6 per cent. interest law; (7) the abolition of the tax commission; (8) the increase of salaries for State officials; (9) provision for vocational training upon the scale desired by its advocates; (10) the development of some plan for the building of the Santee and other essential bridges.

Now, of course, among these items as mentioned as not having been finished, there will be many of them never finished and ought not to be, but many of them are urged nevertheless.

**Most Talk on Small Matters.**

One of the conspicuous features of legislation at this session was the fact that so many important bills were voted upon without any considerable discussion and so many unimportant bills consumed the major portion of debates; for instance, on the senate side there was very much more discussion on the proposition of ratifying the report of the board of arbitrators on the boundary line between Aiken and Edgefield counties or upon the five-cent fare to camp Jackson, than there was upon the proposition of submitting a new board for the tax commission, or upon bone-dry prohibition for South Carolina.

Perhaps the most important individual piece of legislation outlining a new policy on the part of the State was the passage in the eleventh hour of the session of the Banks bill providing for State insurance on cotton. Briefly the plan is for the sinking fund commission, through the State treasurer to pay any losses upon warrant of the warehouse commissioner. The system is to be handled by the governor, comptroller general and the warehouse commissioner, who are to make the rates and handle the entire venture. The authority to borrow money is not given and the idea is that the cotton insurance fund will be able to stand on its own legs.

This is the sequel to the State going into the warehouse business and it is predicted that the venture will prove successful, although it is a marked departure from the policy of the State. The State has for some time insured its public buildings, including the State educational institutions and schools and the venture has been so successful that it made it possible for the cotton insurance statute to pass with comparatively little difficulty.

There was no considerable opposition to the passage of the bill and it went through the senate without protest. The new venture of the State is to go into effect as soon as the governor approves it.

**Elections and Liquor.**

In this connection it might be mentioned that a great deal of the legislative term was consumed by the elections that were necessary to be held at this time. In most cases the incumbents were reelected, but the election brought out into the limelight former Judge Mendel L. Smith, who has resigned to accept a position as major in the United States army and his resignation and his talk before the general assembly accentuated his remarkable ability and the appreciation in which his talents are now held.

There were a series of bills proposed with reference to the liquor situation. Some of the senators wanted South Carolina to join the "bone-dry" column. The house favored such a plan, but the senate killed the proposition. And then some of the senators wanted to restrict the permits that were preliminary to securing the quart a month by physicians' prescriptions. This was killed. Then other senators wanted to stop the sale of essence of lemon, and many of them wanted to stop the sale of proprietary and patent medicines that were essentially offered for intoxicating purposes. All of these suggestions failed and the only change that was adopted at this session to the DuRant quart-a-month law was Senator Alan Johnstone's plan of holding the judge of probate directly responsible for the issuance of the necessary permits and restricting the mak-

ing out of these permits to the office of the judge of probate, and not allowing that officer to "farm out" or authorize any one not in his office to issue such permits, and for him to be the judge as to whether or not such permits should be issued.

**Liberality the Keynote.**

The temper of the legislature was altogether liberal this year. This is perhaps largely due to the fact that South Carolina has enjoyed a year of unbounded prosperity, and the farming interests and all other interests have prospered. The railroads, the insurance companies, the banks, the cotton mills, telegraph companies, telephone companies, water works companies, were all left alone. The only bill affecting or relating to railroad interests was one with reference to simple little wire screens, and even that fell by the wayside. There was absolutely no mention of a 2-cent rate, or anything else that might be of doubtful expediency, as far as the whole State was concerned.

Governor Manning seriously stressed the importance of legislation that might be used in emergency to suspend the labor laws, because labor is getting to be the vexed question in South Carolina at this time, but the labor unions raised such a rumpus about the matter that no bill along this line was even introduced, and the matter died before it could be seriously considered by the general assembly. Governor Manning made many suggestions, the most important of which was the suggestion with reference to the labor laws and an adequate bond issue to relieve the financial strain of the State. The most important of his desires took form in the establishment of the institution for feeble-minded and in the two bills with reference to the handling of the vice situation. The others, generally, went by the board and were defeated.

Woman suffrage was not mentioned. This probably was due to the pendency of the federal legislation. Senator Christensen tried to have a constitutional amendment submitted to the people looking to women holding positions on school and other boards. This was defeated. There are three young women now taking law at the University of South Carolina, under the same rules and regulations and by the same examination as applies to men.

For the first time in the history of the State, a flexible levy has been provided. In other words, the ways and means and finance committees, through Chairman Christensen, announced that the plan was to have a maximum levy of 9 1-2 mills this year which could be reduced in the event that taxable property should show a substantial increase.

This year South Carolina will spend \$3,435,758.88 for the conduct of all of its institutions, for the maintenance of its schools, in addition to other forms of taxation, for the payment of the interest on its bonds, for the operation of its courts and for all of the legitimate expenses of the State government. South Carolina is growing, and growing very rapidly, and while apparently the increase in the appropriation bill over last year is about \$40,000, this is not in proportion to the growth of the State. The extraordinary expenditures in the appropriation bill were the provisions for the home for wayward girls, which will ultimately cost \$40,000—one-half of which is to be paid this year; \$60,000 for the establishment of a home for the feeble-minded—one half of which is to be paid this year. The fund for the maintenance of the council of defense, \$25,000, and the beginning of the construction of a \$100,000 dormitory at Winthrop, to be paid for in three installments.

A most interesting little side-line attraction, so to speak, was the contention over the bill not to allow the killing of heifer calves under eighteen months of age. The one side contended that milk was essential and that by killing off the calves, the milk cows that were essential to the production of the milk were being cut off and that milk-bearing cows were now getting to be very expensive. On the other hand, was the contention that the calves were consuming a great deal of food stuff that was so essential, and that should be conserved. It was a very interesting little fight, and it developed in leaving the issue alone for the owners of the calves to do with them as they pleased.

It is noteworthy that the legislative sessions was shorter than usual—about ten days less than the usual forty days. During this time the general assembly took no excursions, as some people have seen fit to call them. These excursions are not bad things; on the contrary, they are very good things, by way of giving first-hand information.

The general assembly is leaving Columbia after having worked hard, after having shown real patriotic spirit in whatever it has undertaken and without any heartburns or ill feeling at any point during the progress of its work.—August Kohn in News and Courier.

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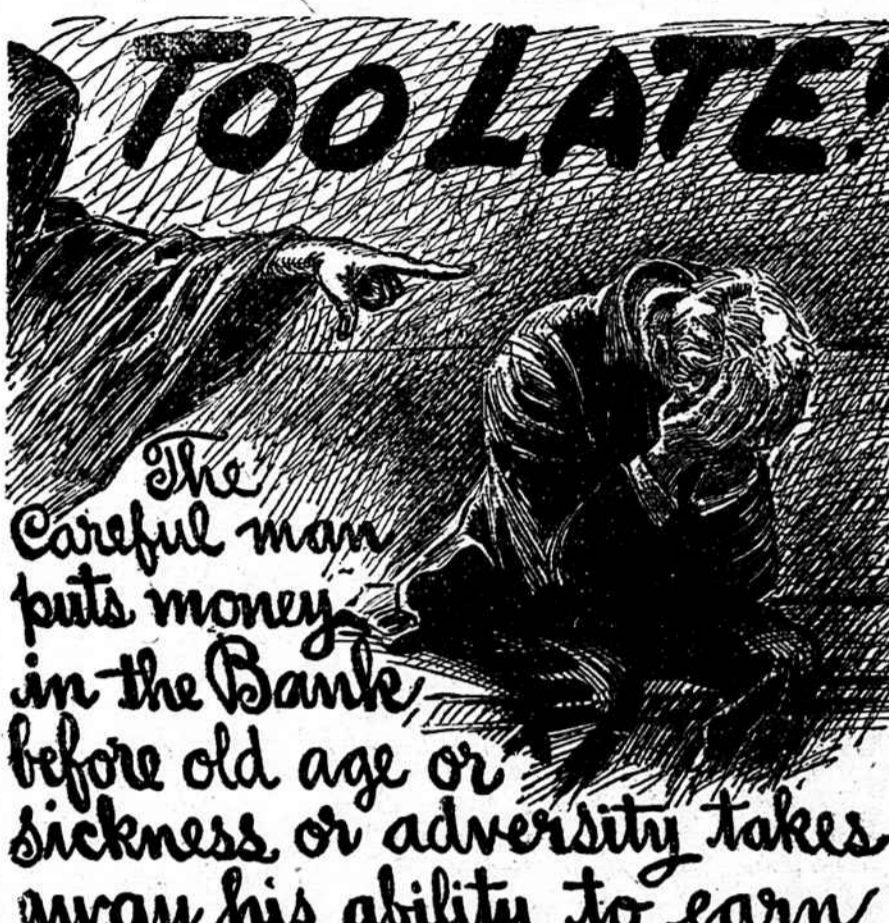
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