

The Anderson Intelligencer

VOL. 1, NO. 1. ANDERSON, S. C. TUESDAY MORNING, JAN. 13, 1914. PRICE FIVE CENTS. \$5.00 PER ANNUM.

ANNUAL MESSAGE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Gov. Blease Gives His Views on Matters In His Characteristically Interesting Style.

Discusses Educational Issues, Primary Elections, And a Number of Other Things And Makes Recommendations as Before.

Gentlemen of the General Assembly. You have met in annual session, in obedience to the Constitution, to take such action, as the law-making power of the State, as shall best preserve the rights and subserve the interests of all the people whom you represent. In welcoming you to the session of 1914, it is with the earnest hope that your efforts in that direction may be wisely guided, and that you may work together in harmony in the performance of that high and patriotic duty.

able to help themselves that I am pleading. I have given you the facts and I have besought and urged you, showing you the necessity for it. I have done what I could. I can do no more. The matter is now with you. Country Schools in Want. In this connection, I beg to call your attention to report filed by the Rural School Supervisor with the State Board of Education, on April 4, 1913, in which he says: "The short term of many country schools and the irregular attendance of many pupils make it impossible for them to finish in one year the work mapped out for the grades in the State course of study." Again: "Three-fourths of one-way country schools employ only one teacher. This teacher has each day from twenty to forty recitations."

ENFORCEMENT OF LIQUOR LAW

BLEASE HAS INTERESTING COMMENT IN ANNUAL MESSAGE DEFENDS HIMSELF Says His Hands Have Been Tied By His Political Enemies and He Couldn't Act

The following interesting extract from the governor's message is printed in full as it has more than ordinary amount of interest locally: I regret to say to you that conditions pertaining to the enforcement of the whiskey laws are not at all favorable. This, however, can not be truthfully laid at my door. When I first came into the governor's office I appointed a strong constabulary force and began, under that section of the statute which gave me the power, to appoint good men in every county throughout the entire State to enforce the whiskey traffic. But there was much bitterness against me at that time, and to my surprise, it was manifested in county officers and in attorneys for county boards, and as a result, in several counties where I appointed these constables or men to enforce these laws, when they presented their claims for salaries, the county boards, under the advice of their attorneys in some instances, and in other instances of their own free will and accord, positively and flatly refused to pay the salaries of these constables. A test case was made from the county of Edgefield, in the supreme court, and the supreme court sustained the action of the county boards in refusing to pay these men, and the strong arm of the law was stayed, and I was thus positively prevented from having under my absolute control and direction a force for the enforcement of the law. The sheriffs were elected by the people and I could not control whatever over them in this regard, save a little section of the law which reads as follows: "Any constable, deputy constable, sheriff or magistrate who shall neglect or refuse to perform the duties assigned by this chapter, shall be subject to suspension by the governor."

WONDERFUL PROSPERITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

THE BEST PART OF THE MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOWS THAT THE OLD STATE IS BULGING AHEAD

During the past 12 months South Carolina has been blessed with wonderful prosperity. From every standpoint the good year 1913 has been the best year in the history of the State. Material progress has been ready and rapid, and always sure, and educational advancement and moral uplift have not lagged behind. The total enrollment in the schools is greater than ever before, there being 167,914 white children in attendance upon public schools as compared with 156,280 white children during the session of 1911-12. Then years ago the total enrollment of white children was 134,330. There are 4,584 white teachers in the public schools, an increase of 221 over the preceding year, which, says the report of the State Superintendent of Education, "was one of the greatest improvements made during the year." Ten years ago there were 3,492 white teachers in the State—an increase of about 1,100 during the past decade. A good many of the school districts have levied special taxes, as high as eight mills in order to take advantage of State aid. During the campaign of 1912 it was heralded around the State by my opponents that if Blease was elected even the insurance companies would withdraw their investments from South Carolina, and that they would leave the State. In 1910 the total investments in State, county and municipal bonds, first mortgage bonds of real estate, and first mortgage bonds of domestic corporations whose property is situated entirely within the State, not including investments made by South Carolina companies, were \$235,000,000. That was the year preceding the first year of my administration. In 1911, the first year, I was Governor, the total investments of this character on December 31 were \$4,630,669, an increase of more than two million dollars, and almost one hundred per cent. On December 31, 1912, these investments amounted to \$8,095,501, and on June 30, 1913, to \$9,945,963. A conservative estimate of increase in investments of this character between June 30 and December 31 would be \$900,000 to \$1,000,000, increasing the total to nearly eleven million dollars, an increase of more than eight million dollars during the three years of my administration, the increase during the three years being more than three times the entire amount invested in 1910. The premium income of life, fire and miscellaneous companies, exclusive of the premium receipts of South Carolina companies, in 1910, was \$6,558,265; in 1911, \$7,198,514; and in 1912, \$7,591,144. At the time this message is written the figures for 1913 are not available. The corporation license fees in 1913 were \$123,516, as compared with \$122,613 the preceding year. The assessment of railroad property for taxation was increased by the State Board of Assessors, in 1913, by \$799,823, and the increase in assessment of express, Pullman palace car, telegraph and telephone companies, amounted to \$533,332, a total increase of \$1,333,155. Figures compiled by the State Department of Agriculture, and furnished me at my request, show that no State in the Union, perhaps, has even approached South Carolina in development during the past year, along agricultural and industrial lines. The value of all agricultural products of the State jumped in the last census decade from \$51,224,000 to \$141,983,000. During the year 1913 the value of the corn, cotton, tobacco, wheat, oats, hay and potato crops alone—just seven, without considering rice, truck, fruits, or having anything else embraced in the above decade totals, aggregates \$154,518,119, as against \$123,219,043 for the same crops during 1912, and \$111,137,889 (census) in 1900. The increase in 1913 over 1912 in these seven crops alone, measured in dollars, was \$31,299,076—a sum only \$20,000,000 less than the total valuation of all farm products in 1900. The corn crop for 1913 was 4,660,000 bushels greater than in 1912, the average yield per acre at last having reached twenty bushels, or within two bushels of the average for the United States, representing an increase in dollars of \$10,484,880. During 1913 8,962,000 more bushels of tobacco were produced than in 1912, for which the growers received \$5,584,339—\$1,930,896 more than in 1912. The growing tendency to raise food supplies at home is shown by the fact that in 1913 254,000 more bushels of wheat were produced than in 1912, representing an increase of \$10,400 over the 1912 wheat crop. The cotton crop of 1913 was perhaps the second largest the State has ever raised, and was the best ever marketed in quality, bringing to the farmers about \$98,500,000. The gross income