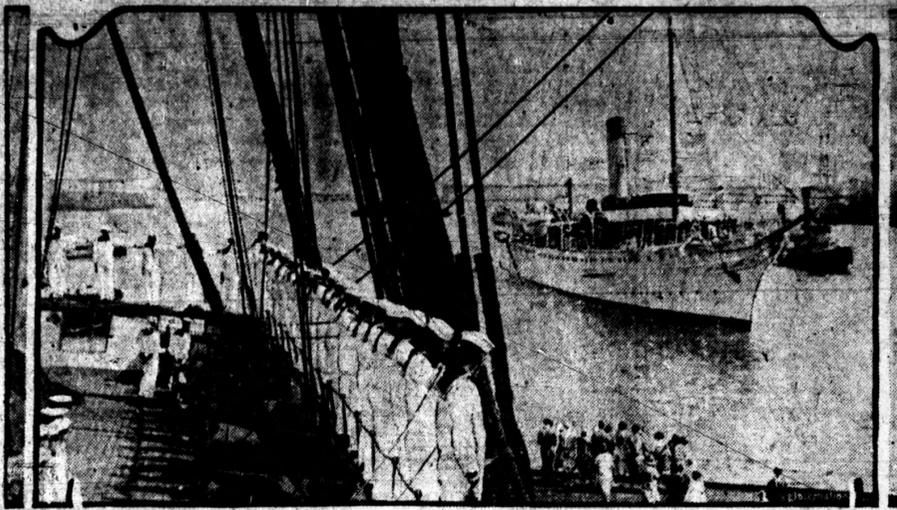


Coolidges See the Constitution at Charlestown



President and Mrs. Coolidge, together with Secretary Hoover and others, went to the Charlestown navy yard and visited the historic old frigate Constitution. The illustration shows the Mayflower, the Presidential yacht, coming in as the sailors on the frigate, in the foreground, give the salute.

BROWN GIVES REASONS FOR DEMANDING RESIGNATIONS (CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE)

Kennedy and not to me. This was in the beginning of 1923 that this Board was appointed, for four years, unless removed, etc. Because the previous Board had spent \$25,132.87 the year before, the Delegation appropriated for 1923, \$25,000 for chaingang, roads and bridges. And remember that just at this time, we had bonded the county to build the Government road from Kline, through Barnwell to Elko, Williston to White Pond, and from Williston to Blackville towards Denmark, and from Barnwell through Blackville to Edisto river, towards Columbia, and these roads were taken over for construction and maintenance by the Government and that relieved the County Directors from the upkeep of all the through roads in the county, and ought to have lessened the expenses for chaingang, roads and bridges. However, in 1923, the present Directors spent the sum of \$31,595.74, or \$6,595.74 more than was appropriated. Mr. Matthews, the chairman of the Board, upon going into office, immediately took the chaingang and moved it over beyond Blackville, near the plantation of himself, his father and brothers, and kept it there, so I am informed, six or eight months. There were two gangs at that time and Mr. Matthews took the big gang over in his community. Mr. J. W. Folk took the little gang to Rosemary, where he lives, and it spent the biggest part of the year in that section. Mind you, these two gangs cost Barnwell County taxpayers for 1923, \$31,595.75, and worked in those two townships practically during 1923. It was during the summer of 1923, that the conduct of Mr. Folk became so highhanded until at the summer term of Court the Grand Jury took the matter up and made a special presentation on the subject. I don't know now who was on the Grand Jury, nor do I remember who the Foreman was then, but I assume that it was composed of eighteen honest men of the County. Read what they have to say about Mr. Folk practically running off the Supervisor who had been elected by the people, taking charge of the gang, working roads in Aiken County for his friends and selling the County rotten corn which killed some of the stock. This is the Grand Jury, two years ago:

6. "In connection with the office of the Board of County Commissioners, now called Board of County Directors, we find and report a most unsatisfactory condition of affairs. We find that the new Board of County Directors which took office in March, is not complying with what we consider the law under which they were appointed. We find that the Act of 1922, under which they were appointed, provides for the appointment of five directors, shall have a general supervision of the affairs of the county, and in addition to the employment of the other county employees, are authorized to employ a County Supervisor to "manage the construction, maintenance and repairs of the roads and bridges of the county", and "to whom shall be committed adequate authority and full responsibility for the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges", all under the General Direction of the Board. The act of the Legislature further provides that the Supervisor may first be nominated in the Democratic Primary. We find that Mr. J. S. Still who has been Supervisor for Barnwell County for many years, being re-elected from time to time by the people, was last year nominated as Supervisor of Barnwell County in the Democratic Primary. We find that since the assumption of office by the new Board, that while they have elected Mr. Still as Supervisor of the County of Barnwell, in the Democratic Primary, and their objection to the new and their objection to the Democratic Primary, the Board

divested Mr. Still of all authority to manage the construction, maintenance and repair of the roads and bridges of the county. We find that the individual members of the Board, in violation of the act by which they were appointed, buying supplies for the county, without competitive bids or advertising for the same, and individual members of the Board directing the affairs of the chaingang, almost to the exclusion of the Supervisor. We further find that the Board has endeavored to put such conditions of service upon the Supervisor as to make it impossible for him to satisfactorily serve the county. We find in one instance, where the chaingang is working over near the Aiken County line. That one of the members of the County Board, over the protest of the Supervisor, directed a certain road to be worked, that the said road was not a County Highway, but a private road leading into Aiken County; that the Supervisor refused to direct said road to be worked by the chaingang, whereupon an order was given the Captain of the chaingang by Mr. J. W. Folk, member of the Board, that the said road should be worked to a point which is generally conceded is as much as half a mile across the Barnwell County line into Aiken County. The Supervisor, who has been in charge of the roads and bridges in Barnwell County for many years, avers that the road in question is not a public road belonging to the county and that the portion of the road in question is in Aiken County. We further find in connection with the activities of Mr. Folk, as a member of the Board, that recently he has caused the county to buy four hundred (400) bushels of corn which came from one of his brothers. It is reported to us that the corn being defective was being offered on the market around Williston at 60c per bushel, but that four hundred bushels of the corn was sold to the county, without competitive bids, at \$1.00 per bushel and paid for; that the same was never measured or receipted for by any Officer of the county unless by Mr. Folk. We have inspected this lot of corn and we find it absolutely rotten; that the feed of the same has killed one of the county's best mules and made another ill, and the county has been forced to discontinue feeding said corn.

7. In connection with the activities of the new Board of County Directors we beg further to report that while there has been sufficient appropriations by the County Delegation for the maintenance of the chaingang for the construction of roads and bridges for the present year, more having been appropriated this year than in recent years, the Board of County Directors is requesting additional heavy appropriations from the County Delegation and to be allowed to overdraw the road and bridge account for the present year. We recommend and request that the County Delegation be most careful in their pledge to provide additional funds for expenditure by the present Board.

8. We find that certain government roads have been built through the county, and others are being built under provisions made by the delegation and that these roads are fine and satisfactory to the county and should in some measure relieve the necessity for heavy appropriations for chaingang roads.

9. Further in connection with the activities of the Board and especially with reference to Mr. Folk, in view of the many complaints that have been made to us and the witnesses whom we have heard with reference to his activities in requiring the working of a private road leading into another county, and causing the sale, above the market price, of the rotten corn to the county, causing death to its stock; that Mr. Folk is an improper and unfit person to be upon the Board of County Directors and we recommend that he be requested to hand in his resignation to the Governor.

I don't say or charge that Mr. Folk had usurped all the power of the Supervisor who had been elected by the people, and had had rotten corn that was offered to other people for sixty cents a bushel sold to the county at \$1.00, and that it killed the stock, and that he worked his friends' roads across the line, at one place

half a mile into Aiken County towards a swimming pool that some people up there wanted to go to, etc., and for all these reasons Mr. Folk was unfit to be on the Board and demanded his resignation. That was the Grand Jury talking. I tried to get along with the Board.

At the end of 1923, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Folk and Mr. Turner combined the two chaingangs and gave them to Mr. Turner up in Four Mile, where it stayed for about a year, built all the roads in, to and around Mr. Turner's place and a few of his friends and among other things used the gang about four months in building a road from the Town of Ellenton, which is in Aiken County, but right on the line, down to Cassel's Mill, where he has a friend who owns a big plantation. There is not, I am informed, a white man living on that road, and it cost Barnwell County at least \$10,000 to build it. During the year that Mr. Turner kept the gang up there, it might be interesting to the tax payers of the county to know he (being in charge of the gang and given the power to buy the supplies), would direct the county trucks every Saturday morning to drive from the Court House in Barnwell, and from in front of the stores of the Barnwell merchants and go to Ellenton, in Aiken County, and there buy all the chaingang supplies, which amounted to several hundred dollars each week. The merchants at the Court House had no opportunity to even bid on these goods. At the beginning of 1924, having appropriated \$25,000 in 1923 and the Board having spent \$31,595.75, and claiming that they could not get along on less, we appropriated \$30,000 for chaingang, roads and bridges and warned the Board that they must stay within the appropriation, that we had passed a law making it a crime for a County Board to spend more money than appropriated, or pledge the credit of the county in excess of the amount appropriated. At the end of the year they had spent \$32,545.24, and we again warned them and at the beginning of this year put the Board on specific notice that we would not stand for their exceeding the appropriation. We made up the deficit last year, as in the past.

This year we appropriated \$30,000, and I personally told members of the Board that they would be given no more. \$30,000 is over six mills on all the real estate of the county, and it is levied and collected on a man's farm, whether his children ever see a chaingang or not. He has no say so, once a Board is in and the money is given them, they can keep the gang in one township a whole year, work roads around their farms and those of a few friends, and the balance of the county pays for it. At the beginning of this year, I am informed, after Mr. Turner turned the gang loose from Four Mile, he and Mr. Matthews gave it to Folk to go to Rosemary. In the meantime and before the gang moved to Rosemary near Mr. Folk's place the Board in meeting assembled, during the spring of the year, passed a solemn Resolution stating that when the gang left Mr. Turner's place it should be sent to Georges Creek to repair some of the roads so that the farmer might haul fertilizers out and their cotton in this fall. The roads in Georges Creek and Great Cypress during all this time, without attention, have become impassable, and there are children down there big enough to go to school who have never seen a chaingang. Treating this agreement as a scrap of paper, and notwithstanding Mr. Folk had kept a gang for a year in Rosemary, just a few months previously, the whole gang was moved back near Mr. Folk's place and has been in and around there for

several months. In the meantime, and before this agreement, the Board had signed a written agreement with Capt. Black and others in Williston to build the road from Williston to Edisto River, towards Springfield, a road that is almost impassable, and the only way the people of Williston have directly to get out towards Columbia. Notwithstanding this, the gang was by Turner, Folk and Matthews, voted to go to Folk's home community. At the Board meeting in August, Capt. Black, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. R. J. Rountree, Mr. Prothro and others appeared before the Board to insist upon their carrying out the contract to build the Williston-Edisto river road. A very large Delegation also came from Georges Creek to tell the Board that they could not get over their roads to haul cotton to the gin and to town, unless they got help. Mr. Matthews, Mr. Folk and Mr. Turner, over the objection of Mr. Morris and Mr. Baxley, I am informed, would not agree for the gang to go to either place where they had promised that it should go and the meeting adjourned without action.

The next morning, I am informed, Mr. Matthews personally went to the gang and had it moved—where to? To Georges Creek to fix the roads for those country people to haul their cotton to the gin, or on the Williston-Edisto River road, as they had agreed in writing they would do? No, back over to near Mr. Matthews' brother's place, near Healing Springs, or Walker station, in the same community in which the big gang had been kept for nearly a year—a little over a year ago.

Then about ten days ago the Treasurer advised me that at this Board meeting the money for chaingang, roads and bridges would be exhausted, and probably overdrawn. Spent \$30,000 and over the first eight months of the year! I immediately got in touch with Dr. Patterson, laid the situation before him, and calculated the rate at which the Board had been spending the first eight months, we figured that they would spend \$15,000 or \$20,000 more during the remainder of the year, if it be given them, making a total of forty five thousand dollars for the maintenance of a chaingang averaging about twenty negroes, for a year. How about that for going some? I knew that on the Sept. Board day, which was Tuesday, the Board would be asking

for more money, and we took time by the forelock and wrote the Directors a friendly letter, telling them that due to the great amount they had spent, and the lack of co-operation between them and the Delegation and among themselves, that we were unwilling to let them handle any more of the county's money (see letter published elsewhere) and suggested that they resign and allow us to appoint a more economical Board, etc., and failing in that, that we would refuse to appropriate further money for them and demand that the gang be turned over to the penitentiary and that we would make other arrangements at the next Legislature to have the roads of the county worked. Their reply to this letter was a demand on Tuesday for an additional \$15,000. We refused and the Delegation passed a Resolution (printed elsewhere) again calling for their resignations, that we might appoint men in whose ability and integrity we had confidence to handle the county's affairs, and if they again refused, directed them to commit the gang to the penitentiary, sell the equipment and deposit the funds with Capt. Armstrong for disposition by us at the next session of the Legislature in January.

I knew that this apparently wilful squandering of the county's money was being done by these three men, with two purposes in view: First—To get roads worked in their immediate section. Second—To spend all the money they could, make the delegation appropriate it and let the people of the county "cuss" Edgar Brown for high taxes. But they have got another guess coming to them. That crowd of tumble-bug politicians, looking one way and working the other, won't ever live long enough to work me into that sort of hole in Barnwell County politics. I may get "cussed" about a lot of things, but I have never been accused of being partizan or interested in one section or one people against the other, and I never will be. And they will all admit that through my efforts Barnwell County has received special consideration at the hands of the Highway Department and the government, and some wonderful government roads, among the best in the State, criss-cross this county, but they were not built by, through or with the assistance of the above named gentlemen, who, during all this time, have squandered the

county's money and built roads in about three or four out of the ten townships in the county, while the people suffered and paid. They can resign or not resign, as they please. It matters little to me. They have spent money and contracted the county's credit to the extent of \$32,019.10 or \$2,019.10 more than allowed by law in three-fourths of the year and demand \$15,000 more. At the proper time they will be called upon to explain why.

EDGAR A. BROWN.

Miss Mary Roberts, of Columbia, spent the week-end in the city with friends.

VALUABLE SMALL FARMS FOR SALE.

The undersigned hold for sale some very valuable town and farm property just east of Barnwell, on both sides of the Coast Line Railroad, and West of Jordan Branch, being part of the lands formerly owned by P. Butler Hagood. This land has been cut up into small tracts and a plat thereof can be seen at the office of Mr. Simms in Barnwell. You are invited to look at the plat, look over the lands and see us about buying any part or all of this land. If necessary, we will try to assist in raising as much as one-half of the purchase price.

R. C. HOLMAN,
Assignee,
CHAS. CARROLL SIMMS,
Agent.

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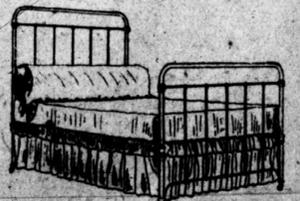


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