LANCASTER ENTERPRISE.

VOL. VII. LANCASTER, S. C., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1898. NO. 48.

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We also pay the highest cash price for cotton seed at our Ginnery.

Thanking the public for past patronage and soliciting a continuation of same,

We are yours truly,

Poag & Harper.

A GLANCE AROUND.

SOME INTERESTING LEGISLATURE AFTERMATH.

What Was Done At The Recent Session — Suggestions About The Coming Campaign.

Columbia S. C., Feb. 19.—The session of the legislature which has just adjourned has been remarkable for one thing—it has done literally nothing. In this its record is cleaner than the record of the session preceding it. This is not because the members of the body did not do their duty, for they were as earnest and conscientious a body as was ever gathered. They tried to do a great deal and the most interesting history of the session is in the measures it buried. This is due to several causes, partly because of the constitutional restrictions on special legislation, but mainly to the fact that there was an uncertainty as to the temper of the people and a feeling, whether conscious or unconscious, that there exists in the minds of the people a determination to shake out the dice box and call for a new deal all around, and a desire to be heard from on many subjects that need strong and sometimes radical legislation. It seemed best to the members of this body to let things remain in statu quo until the sovereignty of the nation could speak.

There has also been a sentiment rapidly gaining strength to change the order of things so that the legislature would meet every two years instead of every year, and the people will probably be heard from on this matter soon. The legislature is one of the heaviest expenses of the state government, and in the interest of economy many urge this plan, and really there seems but little use for annual sessions; for there is now so little to be done on account of the restrictions of the new constitution.

One thing that has been remarkable about the session just closed is the number of charters issued to large enterprises, railroads and the like, which shows a particularly healthy condition of financial affairs in the State and speaks well for South Carolina's march of progress.

In spite of great opposition there has been considerable tinkering at the county government law. But there has been shown a considerable effort from all quarters to get the administration of our internal affairs on an economic basis.

Among the bills of general importance passed was one bringing foreign building and loan associations under the provisions of our State laws as to usury, which will prove a blessing to many.

The "Jim crow" car bill succeeded at last in getting through after much stubborn opposition.

The manufacture or distillation of liquors is forbidden within two miles of a church or public school.

The Ashley fertilizer bill gives South Carolina companies a hard hit. It provides a new system of grading goods, the first grade containing more phosphoric acid than our rock can produce.

Lee county is the child of this session. South Carolina now honors the five great partizan leaders in the revolution in her county names; Sumter, Marion, Pickens, Lee and Horry.

Another bill of general interest is one making a misdemeanor to beat board at a hotel or boarding house.

The greatest interest has been manifested throughout the session in the coming campaign. There were slate makers galore around the capitol, but they labored in vain. Politics are in such a condition of chaos that it is not impossible to form a ring. The people seem to have learned a thing or two about rings and they don't fancy the dose particularly. There has been a great breaking away from old lines, and though the factional leaders who have profited so greatly by factional dissensions have made noble efforts to mobolize their forces, they might as well have devoted their attention to herding rabbits.

The dispensary will be the center of the fight. The dispensary forces are the only ones organized. The old liners will rally to its support, and rumor says that Senator Archer has been selected to wear the mantle of John Gary Evans.

The local optionists, though in greater force in the House, could not accomplish any reform this year, mainly through lack of leadership. They will go into the fight next summer and are now as sheep seeking a shepherd. It is said that John C. Sheppard would like to raise a double standard, local option on one side and high license on the other, but George D. Tillman came out and is in his way.

The local option men in the House have urged Senators S. G. Mayfield to enter the lists as their leader. Mr. Mayfield is a young man, but has long been one of the leaders of the senate. He is regarded as a coming man and as the logical leader of the local optionist. He, it was who first declared the impracticability of floating the storm-tossed hulk of the dispensary and prepared a bill which was presented last year, allowing the people to govern themselves and to work out their own salvation in the liquor matter.

This bill has given general satisfaction and blazes the way to whatever dispensary reformation will be accomplished. Mr. Mayfield has not yet declared his intentions, though great pressure is being brought to bear on him from all quarters—especially from his home, for the people of Bamberg and Barnwell counties are very fond of him personally and have great confidence in him.

R. B. Watson, of Saluda, will divide the "truly loyal" vote with Senator Archer or any other man who represents that side of the question. Mr. Watson is a very strong man at home and nothing but good report of him has gone abroad.

It is also suggested that our redoubtable Ben will forego the seductions of the national capitol and return to South Carolina to demand of Varus what he has done with his legions.

Governor Ellerbe seems to be nobody's particular pet and his failing health may yet require that he withdraw from a contest which will be so hotly waged as the campaign of the coming summer promises to be.

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July 28, 1897(1y)

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