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GETTING READY FOR THE LEGISLATURE.

Little Over a Week Until the Members Assemble—A Great Many Changes Noted.

[The State.]

Within little over a week the legislature will convene. The personnel of the body will show many changes, a number of the leading senators and several of the most picturesque figures in the house passing off the political stage—for a time at least. The senate and the house will both have new presiding officers. With Lient. Gov. Jno. T. Sloan in the chair there is expected to be no friction and the business of the senate will be discharged smoothly. Senator Appelt, Graydon, Gruber, Blakely, Caughman, Bowen, Sullivan, Sarraff, Livingston, Ilderton, Barnwell, Glenn and Henderson are among those who for various reasons will not be members of the new legislature.

The personnel and the leadership of the house will be changed. The speaker of the last house will not be a member of the body this time and it is probable that the robe of office will fall upon Mr. Rainsford of Edgefield, Mr. Smith of Kershaw or Mr. Williams of Lancaster.

The house will lose some of its strongest and most reliable members as well as some of the picturesque figures who have been handed down from the uprising of a decade ago and have been holding over ever since. The ways and means committee is by some considered the most important working body of the legislature. There will be a number of names erased from this committee's roll this session. The chairman, Col. Harvey Wilson, was a candidate for secretary of State; Mr. Geo. E. Prince aspired to succeed Congressman Latimer; Messrs. H. J. Kinard and J. G. Wolling ran for railroad commissioner, and the following also will not return: Cosgrove of Charleston, West of Spartanburg, Weston of Richland and Estridge of Lancaster. Mr. Altamont Moses of Sumter is the senior member of those who will return.

The judiciary committee is also one of the most important and here too the changes will be marked. Seven of the leading members will not return. These are: the courteous chairman, Mr. Baot of Charleston, who was a candidate for congress; Mr. Croft of Aiken who was elected to congress; Mr. C. P. Sanders of Spartanburg, Mr. F. P. McGowan of Laurens, and T. B. Butler who now becomes senator from Cherokee, Mr. Spears of Darlington, of free press law fame, and Mr. Bostick of Bamberg. Of those who will return Mr. T. Yancy Williams is the senior member of the committee.

There will be many other faces missed in the house. Mr. Wm. H. Lockwood of Beaufort, chairman of the committee on accounts, died during the summer; Mr. Henry B. Richardson of Clarendon was defeated for the State senate; the venerable Mr. Dean of Spartanburg will not be here to raise his voice in behalf of the Confederate veterans; the jolly Mr. Strom of Edgefield will not be here; Mr. Eldar of York is a book keeper at the State dispensary, Dr. Wood of Clarendon will not be here to make those funny and facetious remarks in regard to "bug ology" or the study of "microbes"; Josh Ashley, the irrepressible Josh with his fog-horn voice and his lack of veneration for custom and the usages of State bodies; Representative Bolt, the colored member from Georgetown; the venerable and dignified Mr. Wm. Henry Parker of Abbeville, and the reminiscent Mr. Thompson from Oconee; Mr. Ivy Mauldin of Pickens, Clemson's first graduate to be elected to the general assembly; the earnest and manly Mr. McMaster of Charleston, who ran for the State senate; Mr. Blease, the young representative of Saluda who was a candidate for the State senate. There will be many of the former members who will be missed at this session.

The officers of both houses will stand for reelection, and it is be-

lieved that none of them will have serious opposition.

The election of speaker of the house is exciting no little interest. The friends of Mr. M. L. Smith of Camden claim that he now has a sufficient number of pledges to elect, but Mr. Williams' friends are pushing his candidacy very vigorously. Mr. Williams is one of the finest parliamentarians in the State, but Mr. Smith is also a man of unusual ability. Mr. Rainsford's strength is not known, but he is regarded as a man of highest character and of attractive personality.

Among other changes it may be noted that at this session Edgefield County will have but two representatives. Twenty-five years ago this county had seven representatives, but three new counties have in part been made of Edgefield territory since then.

The county of Lee will for the first time have representatives upon the floor of the house. Four years ago Mr. Keels came over from Lee county with his certificate of election, but the courts decided that there was no Lee county—and Mr. Keels retired.

There will be several important questions to come up. The matter of taxes is always the most important, although it sometimes attracts less attention. This year the question will be of greater significance because the appropriations have exceeded the income.

The child labor bill will also be fought to a finish. There are many who assert that the bill will pass. There are others who claim that they will successfully oppose the bill. The cotton mill presidents themselves seem to have divided on the question.

Anti-trust laws will be given some attention by the General Assembly. There will be other measures relating to the management of corporations, but none of them will excite as much interest and as much feeling as the child labor bill.

RELIEF FROM THE DOGS.

Citizens of York County Request Legislation on the Subject.

[Yorkville Enquirer.]

To the General Assembly of South Carolina:

We the undersigned citizens of York county, respectfully urge such legislation as will promise mitigation of what is coming to be generally recognized as the dog nuisance.

It gives us pleasure to say that in his place the dog is a useful animal, always a source of pleasure to his owner, and and sometimes a source of profit, and, therefore, we would not be understood as asking anything like a general proscription, or the enactment of anti-dog laws that would be either unnecessary harsh or unjust.

However, there are too many dogs in the country and too little responsibility for their ownership, and we think that for the common benefit, the ownership of the dog should be subject to certain wholesome restrictions.

We would, therefore, beg to suggest the advisability of an act providing that all dogs in the State must wear collars to be furnished by the respective counties, at a certain proper price per annum, to be fixed by the general assembly; that the revenue thus derived over the above expenses to go to the public road or public school fund, and that the respective counties pay bounties, to be fixed by the general assembly, for the heads of all dogs found without collars, in accordance with the requirements of law to be made and provided.

Note—The foregoing is published at the suggestion of a citizen who is interested in this important subject. It is the idea to have it signed as extensively as possible, and to that end we will be pleased to append the signatures of all qualified voters who desire to be understood as endorsing the proposition. Names should be handed into this office without delay by means of postal cards, letters and otherwise in sufficient numbers to give the general assembly an idea of what our people think about the matter. Ed. Enquirer.

THE STATE'S FINANCES.

The Condition in Which They Were at the Beginning of the Year.

[Special to News and Courier.]

Columbia, Jan. 1.—With the beginning of the New Year it is well to look into one's financial condition. This seems to be the way of the world and it might therefore be well to get some facts concerning the financial condition of the State of South Carolina.

To begin with, the State is now running on borrowed capital. The money which was borrowed will be due during the present month, and the State will not have available funds with which to meet the notes and they will have to be renewed. The reason is that the General Assembly appropriated more money than can possibly be raised on the tax levy and all other sources.

The total taxable property for the year 1903, which is an increase over last year, is \$138,000,000. At five mills this would raise \$690,000, if all of the taxes were collected, which is quite impossible.

The General Appropriation Act of 1902, in round numbers, voted the expenditure of \$1,188,000. The only other source of the State is from the insurance fees and corporation fees, which will not run to \$50,000 this year. There you are. A simple mathematical proposition which the General Assembly will have to meet.

Over in Georgia the General Assembly had pretty much the same trouble and they passed an Act imposing a State license on doctors and lawyers and newspapers and every one else in business, and in that way hope to make up the difference. In South Carolina something of the same sort will have to be done or the levy increased if the State is to be operated on a cash basis.

Under the laws of the State the State Treasurer is not allowed to borrow over \$300,000 in the aggregate for any and all purposes. This amount was borrowed by the 1st of November, not because it was a pleasure to draw it, but because the money was needed to meet the obligations of the State, and the likelihood now is that overdrafts will have to be asked for to meet all expenses prior to the passage of the next general appropriation bill, which will authorize the next loan.

The State Treasurer had on hand this morning \$192,729.47. Of this about \$70,000 will be used for the payment of the semi annual interest on State bonds. This will leave \$122,700, which, if applied to the outstanding notes would leave a balance due of \$173,300; but the ordinary current expenses of the State Government are \$41,000, which, if added, would make a total of \$218,300. No allowance is made for the taxes which will come in within the next few weeks, but it is to be remembered that the taxes that have just been collected will have to run the State Government until next fall, when there will be the next collection of taxes for State purposes.

The General Assembly will have about as much as it can do if it straightens out the financial matters of the State and gets the State upon a cash basis. There is absolutely nothing wrong with the State's finances; the State treasurer has met every obligation; no demands have been made for money that have not been paid; there have been no delays and the State is all right, but this thing of a State borrowing money and paying interest on it is altogether wrong.

It may be mentioned that during the year just ended the privilege tax amounted to \$81,744.94. All of this privilege tax goes directly and without interference to Clemson College, and is expended by the trustees of that college for the analyses, and, in addition to the Morrill, Hatch, land script, Clemson bequest and other funds, for the ordinary operating expenses of Clemson College.

ANY young man or young woman who would like to have a convenient pocket Aluminum Calendar or House Calendar for 1903, write to Macfeet's Business College, Columbia, S. C., and you will receive one by return mail, free of charge. Itaw 4t.

RESIGNED UNDER DURESS.

Indianola, Miss., People will not Get Any Mail Until They Accept Colored Postmaster.

Washington, January 2.—The feature of the cabinet meeting today was the decision to close permanently the postoffice at Indianola, Miss., from which the postmaster, Minnie M. Cox, colored, resigned under compulsion, a few days ago, since which time the office has been closed. The bondsmen have brought the matter to the attention of the authorities here, with the view of being relieved of the responsibility of the accumulated mail. The postmaster general has had a thorough investigation made and has become satisfied that the woman was obliged to resign under duress—in fact, that her life was endangered. Having represented this state of affairs to the cabinet, after a long discussion the decision above noted was reached and the office will not be reopened until the people in the district are ready to accept this woman as their postmaster.

During the afternoon the President discussed with several members of the cabinet other features of the case of Mrs. Cox, Postmaster General Payne being in conference with the President for an hour or more. It was decided finally to issue a formal statement concerning the Indianola case, Secretary Cortelyou, for the President, made public the following:

"The postmaster at Indianola, Miss., is Mrs. Minnie M. Cox, a colored woman. She served three years as postmaster under President Harrison. When President McKinley came in she was again appointed, in 1897, nearly six years ago. Her character and standing in the community are endorsed by the best and most reputable people in the town. Among those on her bond is the present Democratic State Senator from the district, together with the leading banker of Indianola, and an ex State Senator from the district, also a Democrat. The postmaster and her husband own from ten to fifteen thousand dollars worth of property in Sunflower County. The reports of postoffice inspectors who have investigated the office from time to time show that she has given the utmost satisfaction to all the patrons of the office; that she is at all times courteous, faithful, competent and honest in the discharge of her duties. Her moral standing in the community is of the highest. Her reputation is of the best. Few offices of this grade in any State are conducted better.

"The postmaster recently forwarded her resignation, to take effect on January 1, but the report of inspectors and information received from various reputable white citizens of the town and neighborhood show that the resignation was forced by a brutal and lawless element purely upon upon the ground of her color and was obtained under terror of threats of physical violence. The mayor of the town and the sheriff of the county both told the postoffice inspector that if she refused to resign they could not be answerable for her safety, although at the same time not one word was said against her management of the office. On January 1 the bondsmen of the postmaster telegraphed that the postoffice was closed; that the postmaster claimed that her resignation was in the hands of the President, to take effect January 1, and that there had been no advice of the appointment of her successor. The telegram closed with this statement: 'Prompt action necessary for relief of business interests.' In the view of the President the relief of the business interests, which are being injured solely by the action of the lawless element of the town, is wholly secondary to the preservation of law and order, and the assertion of the fundamental principle that this government will not connive at or tolerate wrong and outrage of such flagrant character.

"By direction of the President the following telegram was sent by the postmaster general to the bondsmen: 'The postmaster's resignation has been received, but not accepted. In view of the fact that the office at Indianola is closed all mail addressed to that office will be forwarded to Greenville.' 'The papers in the case have been sent to the attorney general for action.' THE WORLD OF TRADE. Bradstreet's Optimistic View of the Situation—Signs and Results of Prosperity. New York, December 29.—Bradstreet's review of the business year, to be issued on Saturday, will have the following to say: 'To say that 1902 was the best year this country has ever experienced, while truthful enough in the main, does not suggest fully the enormous strides which the United States took in the year just closed. Practically every branch of ordinary trade and manufactures showed an increase above the best of previous years, and yet this immense enlargement of output was not sufficient of itself to satisfy the growing, it might be termed insatiable, demand for all kinds of materials. In many cases the usual foreign outlet for our products was, perforce, neglected by American producers, who confined their efforts to supplying insistent domestic demands, while in others foreign production was called upon to reinforce domestic output, with the result that new currents and channels were created in our foreign trade. Our export trade, therefore, shrank, while our imports expanded to unprecedented figures. The railroads of the country, in their efforts to handle the business offered them, suffered as never before from congestion, and complaint of interference with production and distribution of the products of the farm, the mine, the shop and the loom was practically universal. Industrial unrest was naturally marked, as it always is in times either of prosperity or of depression, and serious disorganization of some of the country's basic industries existed for a time. In many cases, however, resort to extremes was avoided or rendered unnecessary by liberal recognition by employers of changes in the standard of living, and it is safe to say that two men obtained higher wages or had their working time reduced without resort to strikes for every one who actually quit work. Speculation, it is true, felt the checks imposed upon it by conservatism, by short crops in the preceding year and last, but not least, by high rates for money, but despite the fact that stock market operations were only about one-half those of 1901, bank clearings, those usually reliable guides of business, showed aggregates practically equal to the hitherto unheard of totals of 1901. All this was accomplished with a minimum of friction, as reflected in the form of business embarrassments.

SLANDER ON THE GOVERNOR. Washington Post Prints a Story that Anderson Mail Charges McSweeney With Taking Bribe.

Columbia Cor. News and Courier.] A Columbia correspondent has sent to the Washington Post a story that the Anderson Mail charges Gov. McSweeney was paid for pardoning McIntosh, and that Gov. McSweeney intends to sue the Mail.

Gov. McSweeney has no intention of suing the Anderson Mail or anyone else. He feels that he did his duty in pardoning McIntosh and that is all there is to it. As to any "undue or improper influence" being used he thinks, as he has every reason to, that no one believes a word of that, and he is only surprised that anyone should have sent out such an absurd and cook and bull story to the Washington Post or any other reputable newspaper. Unprejudiced people have written Gov. McSweeney that he did exactly right in issuing the pardon and his entire course in handling pardons and giving the utmost publicity to every pardon and application shows the absolute absurdity of the whole thing.

LIQUOR PROFITS FOR THE YEAR.

Half a Million to Counties, Town, and School Fund—The Report soon to be filed.

[The State.]

The annual report of the State dispensary will soon be made, and the exact figures as to the State's big liquor business will be given for the year just ended.

In round figures it is stated that the report will show that the business has paid \$550,000 to the counties, towns and cities and school fund this year, over \$400,000 of this having been paid over to the counties, town and cities. The total amount of profits paid to the school fund is about \$140,000, this including the last three quarterly payments required by the new act.

The volume of business for the year is considerably larger than that of last year.

The experts who have been examining the books, accounts and all affairs of the dispensary under the act requiring such examination to be made have not yet filed their report with the Governor to be transmitted to the general assembly.

The institution ended the year with its accounts more thoroughly balanced up than for some years.

A NEW MANSION.

One of Gov. McSweeney's Forthcoming Recommendations.

[Spartanburg Journal.]

One of the recommendations the governor will make to the Legislature in his last message will be that a new executive mansion be built. It is admitted by everybody familiar with conditions, that the present mansion has long since passed beyond its use for such a purpose, and that for the sake of the health, not to refer to the comfort of the occupants, something ought to be done about it. Gov. McSweeney has given the question careful consideration, and he believes a new mansion can be erected in every way modern, suitable and convenient without a cent of cost to the State.

It is estimated that the present buildings and grounds would bring about \$40,000, and that is not mere guess work, for some of the local capitalists who have been sounded on the matter, think such a sum would be brought. Not only that, but there is almost a certainty that if it is put on the market there would be no trouble about getting a purchaser. That being accomplished, the plan is to secure two acres from the South Carolina College on Sumter street on the lot now owned by that institution on which is the old mess hall, some unsightly cow sheds and a turnip patch. The college might be given \$10,000 of the purchase price for this lot, and leave \$30,000 with which to build a mansion of a modern character and arranged for the special purpose of being the residence of the chief executive. This would help the college and the State, and besides that put the present mansion property on the tax list.

This whole question has been quietly agitated for several years, but this will be the first positive and definite plan conceived or presented to the Legislature.

The U. S. Civil Service Commission reports that for the year ending June 30, 1902, there were 14,983 persons appointed from its registers. There was 4,692 more than was ever before appointed in a single year. Anyone wishing information about these positions can secure it free by writing for the Civil Service announcement of the Columbian Correspondence College, Washington, D. C. The commission will hold examinations to secure young men and women for these places during March and April, at Charleston and Columbia.

Many people do not know that these appointments are made without political influence and that a large share of them are filled by those having only a common school education, but such is now the case.

WHY IS CHINA POOR?

Natural and Artificial Causes of the Chronic Tragedy of a Great Nation.

(Wm. Durban, in Pall Mall Gazette.)

One of the greatest disabilities under which China labors as a nation is as simple as it is sad. An immense proportion of its population very rarely get a meal sufficient either in quantity or in nutritive power. Hundreds of benevolent foreigners, both of the mercantile and missionary orders, are constantly seeking in scattered spots throughout the vast realm to mitigate the chronic distress of the poorest sections. Especially has philanthropy been effective in relieving the abnormal pressure consequent on drought and floods. Obviously, however, external help can do next to nothing to meet a normal condition of insufficient ailment extending over a very extensive land and involving an enormous population.

One of the causes of chronic and massive indigence in China throughout most of the interior is the utter stagnation for ages of civilization. The development of this mighty race was long since arrested, and though the nation is not decadent, its conditions are stereotyped, and China is in a state of permanent childhood. Every linguist well understands that this accounts for that colossal philological curiosity, the Chinese language. It has never got beyond the monosyllabic stage, and is a mere language of overgrown babies. This condition of arrested development lies at the root of the appalling poverty of the masses in a country which nature designed to be incalculably wealthy. China is not, like Central Asia, a land of savages, howling wastes. It is one of the most fertile and flowery parts of the earth's surface almost throughout the entire area. And, moreover, its people are the most industrious agriculturists in the world, and have been so for many centuries. Fruit and vegetables are much more abundant and exist in much greater variety than we are favored with in our own country.

Notwithstanding these magnificent natural endowments, what is the state of things in the Flowery Kingdom? From lack of anything like scientific cultivation the quality of nearly all fruits is exceedingly poor, and only the splendid sunshine and the atmospheric conditions compensate for the lack of skill. Apples, pears, apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums, cherries, grapes and persimmons are almost everywhere grown in immense abundance, but no native ever studies improvement in their culture. Wheat, millet, maize, sorghum, sweet potatoes, peannts, indigo, and a great variety of pea and bean crops are produced with ease, while rice is, of course, almost universally found in cultivation. But in nearly every province the output, notwithstanding the indefatigable toil of the people, is far short of what might be attained under better management, while the quality of the foodstuffs is deficient in nutritive power. Vast tracts of soil have been impoverished through centuries of uninterrupted production without any adequate compensation. Enriching material is poor in quality. Grazing is unknown, and in most of the provinces the land never lies fallow, the natives never having learned the secret of the rotation of crops. Yet the land is still forced to produce three crops in two years without intermission.

The Chinese poverty problem is complicated. Its secondary causes are manifold, but after all they are only aggravations of the agrarian stagnation. One of my friends residing for a time in the interior asked an official how many beggars he was feeding. He replied 18,000. "These," he explained, "are all tenant farmers from the north. Few people who entirely own their land are so miserably poor." Thus at every point the agricultural question recurs. In the province of Wuhu last year a large relief work was initiated by foreigners. Here also the starving sufferers were chiefly of that same large class in China, the tenant farmers. Many of them were from the immense states of the late Li Hung Chang. Where a man gives half he raises to a landlord he can, even in a good year, save little or nothing and a poor year means famine.