

## CONFERENCE

### Committee at Work on State Highway Bond Program.

Columbia, Dec. 28.—A. B. Langley, chairman of the good roads convention and also a member of the state highway commission, and Charles H. Moorehead, state highway engineer, went to Spartanburg early yesterday afternoon to confer with Charles O. Hearon, another member of the commission, in reference to road plans in general.

From Spartanburg Mr. Langley and Mr. Moorehead will go to Greenville where they will confer with B. N. Pease, a committeeman from the Fourth congressional district.

Mr. Langley as chairman of the general convention and as a member of the subcommittee of the general committee to frame a program for presentation to the general assembly next year is working hard in an effort to have all details completed for the full committee meeting January 4.

The date for the general convention session has been changed from January 9 to January 11. It was announced yesterday morning.

Governor Harvey is inviting all editors of newspapers in the state to meet with the convention when it reassembles.

Tentative plans of the subcommittee call for a \$25,000,000 bond issue.

## INCOME FROM GASOLINE TAX

### Revenue Derived For Eight Months Totaled \$602,000.

Columbia, Dec. 28.—During eight months of the present year, from March 1 to November 1, South Carolina motor vehicle owners spent \$6,922,000 for gasoline alone, not including the two cents a gallon tax. Figures through November were not compiled, but will be in a few days.

According to the compilation of the commission, 30,100,000 gallons of gasoline were consumed between March 1 and November 1 and this gives an approximate average of \$81.42 for each car owner in the state. The tax has cost approximately \$7.08 for each machine owner for the eight months.

The revenue raised from the two cents tax has amounted to \$602,000, this figure not including the November amount. Another item brought out in the statement of the commission is that approximately 354 gallons of gasoline were used by each motor vehicle. This gives an approximate average of 4.48 cents a month per person or 53.8 cents for eight months.

The cost of collecting the tax will be about \$5,000.

## MANY PERSONS ARE HURT

### Dust Explosion at Kansas City Injures Thirty.

Kansas City, Dec. 27.—More than thirty persons are tonight suffering from burns and injuries resulting from a dust explosion and a fire in the mill of the Schreiber Flour and Cereal Company here this afternoon. Estimates of the loss range from \$125,000 to \$150,000.

Firemen searched in the ruins where a man was said to have been immediately after the explosion. This man it was explained, made two attempts to escape from the building through a back window, but each time seemed to lack strength and fell back into the flames. Company officials said all the men escaped from the building.

The mill was a five-story structure with few openings, making it difficult for the firemen to make headway against the flames. The explosion was caused by sparks from motors in the opinion of firemen.

## KILLED BY LITTLE BOY

### Negro Shot by White Lad Six Years of Age.

Camden, Dec. 27.—Ezell Murphy, a negro boy ten years of age, residing in West Wateree, was shot and instantly killed about noon Tuesday by a white child named Furman Ray, who will be only six years of age in May. There were no eye-witnesses to the tragedy and all the information obtained was from the white child. The small children had been snapping the empty gun the afternoon before but in the morning some elder member of the family had used the gun while out hunting and left it loaded. The negro came by the home of the white child and they were talking when the gun was again snapped and it fired, the whole load taking effect in the negro's neck. The sheriff and coroner made an investigation of the affair but owing to the age of the child no action will be taken in the matter.

### Death of a Colored Woman

Mrs. Binkle Rush departed this life on December 25th at her residence on Council street. She had been ill for several months. She leaves to mourn her loss, her husband, Edward Rush of Sumter; three children, Mrs. Bessie Rice of Chicago; Miss Essie Hopkins of Sumter and George Hopkins of Columbia, five grand children and a host of relatives and friends. The funeral service will be held tomorrow at 2 o'clock at Mt. Pisgah A. M. E. Church. Interment will be at Walker's cemetery.

## CONFIDENCE IN TRADE CIRCLES

### Commodity Prices Show Distinct Strength—Cotton and Wheat Attain New High Levels For the Year

New York, Dec. 24.—While the holiday season has served to quiet the chief financial markets appreciably during the past week, it has brought distinctly active retail trade and has had remarkably little checking effect on the industries. Steel productions continue to approximate 80 per cent of capacity and trade reports state that the year-end closing down of plants will be for briefer periods than usually is the case. Most of the producers will reopen their plants Tuesday rather than wait the week which more commonly elapses before operations are resumed. Steel makers are confident, furthermore, that their present scale of operations will be maintained throughout the first quarter of the new year. Order books are fairly well filled and prices of finished products remain firm.

Railroad carloadings meanwhile continued to hold up remarkably well although the normal seasonal slackening is making itself felt.

Coal Production. Bituminous coal production is being maintained at the rate of 11,000,000 tons a week and the amounts made available to industry seem wholly adequate to reasonable demands.

Commodity prices have shown distinct strength during the past week. Both cotton and wheat attained new high levels for the year. Persistent buying of the more distant futures carried May Cotton up to approximately 26 1-2 cents. It was apparently based on the idea that a 10,000,000-bale crop and the present rate of consumption, which is high, means a shortage before new cotton can be obtained from another crop.

Influences were mixed in the wheat market. It seems probable that the firmness in prices was due largely to general optimism. Thus the Department of Agriculture reviewed its estimate for 1922 crop upward, adding some 45,000,000 bushels.

Its first report on the new winter wheat crop placed the acreage at slightly more than 46,000,000 acres and the condition at 79.5 per cent. As compared with the figures for the previous crop, acreage is reduced about 3 per cent, condition increased by a like amount. This first estimate is only, of course, suggestive.

As the holidays approached, the absence of any pressure to liquidate was noticeable in the several markets. Technical conditions apparently had been greatly improved during the last two months. Most observers are looking forward to the New Year in a cheerful mood.

## NUMBER OF AUTOMOBILES

Columbia, Dec. 27.—Having 187 persons to every motor vehicle registered, South Carolina is far down the list of states in motor vehicle density, according to figures which the December number of the State Highway bulletin, official publication of the State Highway department, says were compiled from the registration of automobiles throughout the country. This places the Palmetto state in forty-second place among the states.

A number of motor vehicles for each 1,000 persons in the state is given as 53.35. The state's total registration is thirty-second in the country.

## ROAD BOND MEETING

Florence, Dec. 27.—Citizens of the sixth congressional district will meet here tomorrow to discuss the proposed bond issue for building highways of the state. The meeting was called by Col. D. A. Spivey, chairman of the Sixth district, and one of the members of the committee named at the recent mass meeting in Columbia to work out a plan that could be submitted to the state legislature in January.

Special invitations have been sent by Col. Spivey to mayors of towns, members of the legislature, representatives of chambers of commerce, county commissioners and other prominent men throughout the district.

The meeting is being held both for discussion of the proposal to issue \$50,000,000 or \$60,000,000 worth of road bonds and also to sound the sentiment of the district on the question.

## WOODROW WILSON'S BIRTHDAY

Washington, Dec. 28.—Former President Wilson celebrated his sixty-sixth birthday today quietly at his home here. The only scheduled event was the visit of a delegation from the Woodrow Wilson foundation this afternoon to extend birthday greetings and inform him of the progress made in raising a million dollars to perpetuate the ideals he pronounced during his presidency.

WANTED—Several small tracts of good pine timber from 1-4 to 5 million feet. We also pay cash for No. 1 pine logs 14 inches and up in diameter delivered to our new band mill at Denmark, S. C. The Zickgraf Company, Denmark, S. C.

## The Pocallo Road

### Reply to Mr. Tindal's Article and the Sentiment of the People Involved

Editor Daily Item:

Due to my inability (on account of being confined to my bed with the flu) to attend the meeting of the Permanent Road Commission on Thursday, having been appointed on a committee to represent my people at this meeting I ask you to publish this article setting forth the facts and our wishes in regard to the paving of a road in our section.

I have read an article in your paper under date of 16th inst. signed by Mr. H. D. Tindal, in which he criticizes the meeting at Pocallo and tries to mislead the public in regard to facts. I am going to comment on his article and give you the facts as they exist.

Pinewood was not represented at the Pocallo meeting, this mistake in the article was due to Mr. R. P. Monaghan, who presented the article for publication, having not been informed as to sections represented. The meeting would be called a Bethel, Providence, Pocallo gathering and those are the ones mostly concerned.

As everybody knows there are only two sections by name, Bethel and Providence school districts or Earl and Privateer voting precincts. I live in the heart of the Providence district, in behalf of which I am writing.

Mr. Tindal states that his proposed railroad route is designed to help those or serving those that live along the Manning road which passes through our district. I wish to state this is not true, and not the sentiment in my section. If it was true why didn't Mr. Tindal consult us and have us join him in the petition. Did he? No, we knew nothing of his plans until it was published in the papers where he had presented them to the commission. What did we do? We got a petition signed by a great many citizens of our section to show our disapproval and Mr. J. T. Brogdon presented it at the next meeting, which it seems had no weight as the commission voted in favor of Mr. Tindal. So we resolved to continue to fight his proposition, which seems to be a one man proposition. So we notified the Bethel people and they unanimously joined us at Pocallo, and we are in the fight to a finish.

In order for the patrons of the Manning road to use Mr. Tindal's route, it would mean the addition of from 1.1-2 to 4.1-2 miles, more mileage to reach Sumter, which would not be practical, this mileage depending on where you lived. You would have to travel over this mileage going west, while Sumter lies north.

As I have stated, I live in Providence district, on eastern side of railroad and consider from a practical point I am more familiar with said district than any other person in regard to roads, homes, and property owners. Why? Because I took the census in this district two years ago and in doing so I had to visit every house and travel every road.

So I contend from my own observation that the proposed Tindal road would not render us any service.

Mr. Tindal owns all land on our side of railroad from the A. J. Jones place to Pocallo, except for a short distance from Pocallo which is owned by Mr. M. H. Beck. Hodge estate, Mr. Isaac Strauss and Mr. Seabrook. Now he states he has had the property owners to donate the necessary land for a new road. I contradict this statement, as you see the land owners are few, as I stated at Pocallo, about five. I know Mr. Beck and Mr. Strauss have not and will not sign such papers as they oppose the plan; also do not believe the Hodge estate would consent to same.

I realize Mr. Tindal is unfortunate to own so much land and not have a paved road by his door. But it is his fault. He owns land on public roads and had the privilege

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of building there. His lands extend from the railroad to Pocallo swamp in some places. I realize he needs a paved road through the sand that surrounds him. But, he must be considerate and not try to consolidate two established, chartered, public roads that are now and have been in the past serving two of the thickest settled white communities in Sumter county, (Providence and Bethel); also those lying beyond these communities with entire satisfaction to all, which is of far more importance than serving Mr. Tindal and his tenants.

He states his plan is a happy compromise. I would like to know how he reached this conclusion. Why didn't he attend the advertised meeting at Pocallo last week, and he would have learned that the people desired no such compromise as offered by him.

In referring to the number present at Pocallo, he says many of them were not land owners. That was true. I am not a land owner myself, but my mother is and I am living on her place. Her interests are mine so I think any casual reader will agree that I had a perfect right to represent her, the same right as if I was a land owner, as she did not have the right to vote on the bond issue. There were others present for the same cause that I was.

I have been informed that Mr. Tindal has been putting out the propaganda that a person not owning property on a paved road would not be assessed taxes to protect the bonds, this would only appeal to the ignorant, (as it is untrue).

I wish to state there is no contention between the two sections (Bethel and Providence). Of course it is natural that both sections would like to be served with a paved road, if practical. The total mileage of both roads would not be as much as that on the Rembert, Shiloh or Pinewood roads. If this cannot be done, then we ask for what I term a happy compromise, namely, to divide the mileage of pavement, after passing Pocallo in two equal amounts, giving the two present roads the benefit of an equal share. I feel confident that this plan would be acceptable to all concerned, and would be designed to serve all.

I have submitted the facts as they exist, if the commission doubts the veracity of same I invite them to come down and have a personal observation.

Respectfully,  
J. A. Cooper

## CAPITAL STOCK INCREASED

Columbia, Dec. 26.—The Secretary of State has authorized the Murray Drug Company, of Columbia to increase its capital stock from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

The Fairmont Manufacturing Company, of Fairmont in Spartanburg county, was authorized to increase its capital stock from \$300,000 to \$450,000.

An increase in capital stock of from \$200,000 to \$400,000 was authorized for the Hartsville Oil Mill, of Hartsville.

A charter was granted Weston & Brooker, Engineers, Inc., of Columbia, with a capital stock of \$10,000. T. I. Weston is president and treasurer, and B. O. Brooker, secretary.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Cotton exports during November, including linters amounted to 858,337 bales, the commerce department announced today. The exports are valued at \$109,387,719.

## TEN YEARS HENCE

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