

The News and Herald.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

WINNSBORO, S. C., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1905.

ESTABLISHED 1844.

Senator Johnson's Explanation.

Editor The News and Herald:
In your paper of February 22 a scurrilous editorial article appeared in which I am called upon to explain my connection with the Brice bill, providing for a new jail and court house and to bond the county \$15,000 therefor.
The article is so offensive in character and so unwarranted in fact as to call for no reply, and would in the order of things be consigned to the waste basket of contempt were I not impelled by a sense of duty to my constituency to correct the many palpable misstatements made.
You say "two important measures relating to Fairfield county have fallen through in the General Assembly because of the action of Senator Johnson, who fortifying himself behind that almost insuperable barrier to legislation, senatorial courtesy, bitterly opposed the representatives in the house, refusing to agree to any proposition on their part that promised the desired results."
Now, to show how utterly unfounded this statement is, I will only say no propositions whatever were submitted to me by any member of the house delegation to adjust the difference between the house and the senate bill, save the bill itself. Instead of fortifying myself behind senatorial courtesy, as you charge, just the reverse is true. When the house refused to accept the senate amendment, I asked for a committee of conference. This committee was duly appointed and I believe Mr. Brice, the author of the house bill, was a member of it. This committee reported that they were unable to agree and asked that a free conference be appointed. Senators McEver, Peurifoy and myself were appointed on the part of the senate and Messrs. Cottran, Nicholson and McCants on the part of the house. We met in the finance committee room of the senate and the two bills were read in full before the committee. Mr. McCants made his statement in defense of his house bill and I tried to show that the senate bill was preferable. I think Mr. McCants will agree that after a full discussion of the matter in free conference, the consensus of opinion of both the senate and the house conferees were largely favorable to the senate bill, because I presume they saw at a glance that the bill or the substitute as proposed by myself was fair and just to the taxpayers of Fairfield county.
So much for your so-called senatorial courtesy. I will say further, Mr. Editor, that I am not in the habit of dodging behind subterfuges. It is more often those that impugn the motives of others who are guilty of the crime they imagine in others.
Again, you say the house bill passed the house early in the session and was held up by me in the senate, and did not get back to the house until the day before adjournment when it was too late to make any change that might have been possible. Are you as ignorant as you pretend to be, or is it only your desire to bolster up your attack at any cost? Do you not know that the free conference committee could have made any changes in the bill they desired even if it had been on the very day of adjournment? Do you not know that that is their sole and only duty to adjust differences and disagreements between the two houses to the extent of carrying in an entirely new bill upon the subject and it would become law the same as if it had taken its regular course in the two houses? I believe your townman, Mr. McCants, was among the first, if not the first of the free conference committee, when it was apparent that the majority was at least favorable to the senate substitute, to express his desire that the bill should be killed rather than accept the senate's action. I made several concessions. Among them to report the bill back and allow it to remain upon the calendar until next session, and that I was even willing to increase the rate of interest in order to get together. Neither of these propositions seem to be acceptable and I finally acquiesced in the motion to disagree.
Your farther statement that I, in awarding \$2,000 as the minimum price for the jail was imposing a condition which I knew would sound the death knell of building a new jail and court house. This

is in keeping with your other statements quoted above, and I say frankly there is not a scintilla of truth in it. The Brice bill provided that the jail should be sold to the highest bidder, no matter what that bid might be. It is located right in the heart of your town, and if not worth \$5,000, it is simply worth nothing. I venture the assertion that the same property in Ridgeway would command \$10,000 easily. Under the provisions of the house bill the jail and lot could have been sold for \$100, if that happened to be the highest bid. Then who of the taxpayers would not have had the right in that event to criticize the delegation, and justly so, for such unbusinesslike and unpardonable negligence in allowing their property to be sacrificed and some prospective purchaser made rich at their expense. But you say you are not going to tinkle me for this apparently smart trick. Well, I am not going to cry, if you don't, for some editors don't help a fellow much by tickling him these days. They seem to hurt more than they help.
Next, you claim that in providing for the election to be held in August of next year at the same time as the general primary that I knowingly imposed a condition that would render the measure unconstitutional. If that is true, which I do not admit, I will say I was only following your bad example of two years ago. Then, if you remember correctly, Mr. McDonald and yourself canvassed the entire county previous to the primary in 1902 in the interest of the bond issue and were perfectly willing to submit the matter at that primary, and did submit the matter at that election. After Mr. McDonald's brilliant oratory had been heard at every campaign meeting in the county and notwithstanding not a word was uttered against the issue of the bonds, yet the majority of the people voted against it and it was defeated. Why are you unwilling to go to the primary now? Are you afraid of the decision of the whole people? Why has such a change come over you? Is it because a burnt child dreads fire? If it was constitutional then, it is constitutional now. Oh, consistency, thou art a jewel! No, I imposed no conditions that would have rendered the bill unconstitutional. On the other hand, I was honest enough to carefully guard against that and provided that the matter should be submitted to the qualified voters of the county and not to the vote of any party as your charge. So again the wild suspicions and imaginations of the wicked must recoil upon your own head. Will you be manly enough to admit it?
Then you come with the bold statement that my changing the time the bonds were to run from 40 to 20 years was done for the purpose of making them non-negotiable. Not a word of it. My only wish in that respect was, if a majority of the qualified voters of the county saw fit to impose the indebtedness upon themselves, they should at least have the right to gradually liquidate it in 20 years and not be burdened to death paying interest for half a century.
And you think it would have been more manly for me to have opposed the bill openly then to have resorted to such underhanded measures.
As Mr. Editor, I think it would have kept a little more manly, as well as gentlemanly, in you to have examined into the facts before assailing a gentleman with such a tirade of misrepresentations.
I am not afraid to trust the people, but there are some who are. The people can always be depended upon to do the right thing at the proper time. I was perfectly willing to submit the building of a new jail and court house to the people to pass upon, provided that the matter should be voted upon at the August primary in 1906, when a full and free expression of all the people and taxpayers could be had. Could anything have been fairer? No, but you want to have the election about the last of May or the first of June of this year as provided by the Brice bill, when every farmer in the county would be too busy to go to the polls and have a forty year indebtedness of \$12,000 fastened upon the taxpayers without their consent, as everybody knows there

Memoirs, Traditions and History of Rocky Mount and Vicinity.

(Written for The News and Herald by L. M. Ford.)

REVOLUTIONARY TIMES.

The occurrence at Beckhamville and a similar one at Mobley's Meeting House alarmed the commander at Rocky Mount and he sent out Captain Christian Huck, a profane and unprincipled man, with four hundred cavalry and a body of well mounted Tories "To push the rebels as far as he might deem convenient" He executed his orders with alacrity. He destroyed Colonel Hill's iron works and burned the residence of Rev. William Simpson, pastor of Fishing Creek Church. He hated the Presbyterians bitterly and made them suffer when he could. Well loaded with plunder, he fell back to Rocky Mount and made preparations for other depredations.
Sumter was gathering a little army together and Huck proceeded to execute his orders before Sumter's approach. He marched to and encamped upon James Williamson's plantation, now Brattonville, July the 11th, 1870. Shortly after midnigh Colonel Neil and the companies of Captains Bratton and McClure came down from Sumter's camp in Mecklenburg and cautiously approached the sleeping enemy in his encampment which was in a lane. At dawn they fell upon Huck's party with fury. The surprise was complete and the battle ensued fiercely for about an hour when Colonel Huck with Colonel Ferguson of the Tory militia were killed and the party dispersed. The whole patriot force consisted of 133 men. McClure and his men, who were well mounted, pursued the fugitives almost to Rocky Mount and within four hours the army of Huck was as completely dissolved as if they had never seen each other. Colonel Neil lost only one man.
These defeats had encouraged the Whigs and had the opposite effect upon the Tories. Many joined Sumter and he soon felt able to attack the force at Rocky Mount, which was known to be a third larger than his own. The post at Rocky Mount at this time was under the command of Lieut. Col. Turnbull and consisted of about one hundred and fifty New York volunteers and some South Carolina militia. They were stationed in three log houses upon a slope surrounded by a ditch and abatis and encircled by open wood.
At an early hour July the 31, 1870, General Sumter, accompanied by Colonels Neil, Irvine, and Lacy, Captain McClure and some of the Gastons, appeared upon an elevation northeasterly from the forts. The British commander having been warned by a Tory was prepared to receive them, and though the Americans poured some severe volleys upon the forts, but little effect was produced thereby. They leaped the parapets and after three assaults drove the garrison into the houses. They were without artillery and could not dislodge them with musketry. They endeavored to burn the houses by throwing burning fagots upon them and this failed also. An old wagon was procured which was loaded with brush and straw and these were ignited and the wagon was rolled down against the houses. The British, seeing their danger, hoisted a flag. Supposing they intended to surrender, Sumter ordered the firing to cease. Just at that moment a shower of rain fell and extinguished the flames. The enemy defied him. Having no other means to dislodge or seriously injure the garrison Sumter withdrew. The Americans lost the gallant Colonel Neil early in the action, two white men and a Catawba Indian lost their lives and ten were wounded. The British loss was ten killed and ten wounded.
Some fragments of the foundation of the old forts may be seen today. The rocks behind which some of Sumter's men fought were bespattered with British bullets during the fight. During the digging of the old canal some of these rocks were split up and used probably in the fort at the mouth of Rocky Creek.
Hopping John Miller, one of Sumter's partisans, would get behind a big rock, carefully load his gun, come out openly when about to shoot, and always after taking deliberate aim after the

brief ejaculation as he pulled the trigger: "May the Lord direct the bullet."

Some days prior to the battle, William Stroud of Beckhamville section borrowed some ammunition of the garrison at Rocky Mount to kill some Whigs, he told them. He went into the battle with Sumter's men and while the fight was raging he told the British that he was then returning his borrowed ammunition. After Sumter withdrew, a squad of British went up and caught him in a neighbor's crib shelling corn. He was arrested, carried to the main road, and hanged to a tree on the west side of the road a few hundred yards north of the residence of Mrs. R. B. Boyleston, Beckhamville, and there his body languished three weeks in August with a placard attached to the corpse forbidding his burial under severe penalties. But at last a few friends, bold enough to risk the vengeance threatened, came at night, dug a hole under the corpse, climbed the tree, cut the rope and let the body fall into the grave. This young man during the last months of his life killed more soldiers than any other man during the entire war. Captain Dickson, York county, cut him down. Other accounts state that he was buried by Sumter.

Some time previous to the battle of Rocky Mount, Captain Ben Land was drilling some patriots near where the Ebenezer Methodist church now stands, when they were charged upon by some British dragoons. The patriots, having no previous notice of their approach, dispersed. Captain Land was overtaken and surrounded by the dragoons, who attacked him with their broad sword. He defended himself with his sword to the last and wounded several of the enemy severely before he fell. Soon after his death his widow gave birth to a son, whom she called Thomas Sumter in honor of the American General. The grave of Captain Land is still pointed out on the waters of Little Rocky Creek.

It is said that the person who carried the information which led to the death of Captain Land did not die in his bed. While this was happening, part of Captain Land's men were at a neighboring shop having their horses shod. They were followed, fired upon, and one man was killed. The dragoons then crossed Big Rocky Creek and went to the residence of Rev. William Martin, took him prisoner, and carried him to Rocky Mount, where was Thomas Walker, who had been taken prisoner some time previous. During the battle of Rocky Mount these two men were bound to the floor of one of the houses. The British had a wholesome dread of the stormy eloquence of Rev. William Martin.

Esther Gaston and her sister-in-law, Jane Gaston, having been informed of the expected attack upon Rocky Mount early in the morning of the day of the battle, mounted their horses and galloped towards the scene of action. When nearly there, they met two or three men coming away with faces paler than became heroes. Esther stopped the fugitives, upbraided them with cowardice, and entreated them to return to their duty. While they wavered, she advanced and seizing one of their guns exclaimed: "Give us your guns and we will stand in your places." The most cowardly of men must have been moved by such a taunt. Covered with confusion and for very shame, these runaway soldiers wheeled about and returned to the fight with these two heroines. During the action these two ladies were idle spectators, but busied themselves diligently in rendering whatever services were required, assisting to dress the wounds of the soldiers and in carrying water to allay their thirst. A Catawba Indian severely wounded was secured by them and his last looks were turned in gratitude to those who had soothed his pain and supplied his wants.
For the account of the battle of Rocky Mount and the Revolutionary incidents above mentioned, I am indebted to that part of "The Women of the Revolution" written by Daniel Stinson, Fishing Creek.

(To be continued.)

A MATTER OF HEALTH

ROYAL
BAKING POWDER
Absolutely Pure
HAS NO SUBSTITUTE

GRAND JURY PRUDENTMENT.

A Statement from the County Supervisor Showing the Present Indebtedness of Fairfield County to be at Least \$23,500 After All Taxes are Paid In.

To Hon. R. O. Purdy, Presiding Judge:

We, the grand jury of Fairfield county for the year 1905, respectfully report that we have duly considered and passed on all bills of indictment handed to us by the solicitor at this term of the court.

By special committee we have examined the poor house and farm and find the premises in good shape, and the inmates properly cared for and the farm in good condition. There are on hand all necessary agricultural implements, 3 mules, 1 bull, 2 milch cows, 3 yearlings, 3 sows, 16 shoats, 14 pigs, 7 bales of cotton, 200 bushels of cotton seed, 500 bushels of corn, 8,000 bundles of fodder, 1,000 pounds of shucks, 93 bushels of peas and 500 pounds of cured bacon. We especially recommend that a windmill, tank and pump be erected at once and 250 feet of hose be provided and that all chimneys be put in safe condition, and that one of the inmates, John Howell, be sent to the asylum for the insane.

We repeat the recommendation made by several grand juries preceding, urging upon the proper authorities to better secure from fire risk the records of the county offices and more especially those in the office of the clerk of court and that a sufficient number of comfortable chairs be put in the court and jury rooms.

As matter for public information we report that Mr. J. H. Burley, county supervisor, informs the grand jury that after much work in his office he has arrived at what he believes to be a correct estimate of the present indebtedness of this county and that he puts the same at \$23,000; that this amount will be reduced about \$11,500 by moneys arising from the remainder of the taxes of 1904 now in process of collection, leaving a net indebtedness of about \$23,500.

We have appointed from our number a committee of three, who with the assistance of an expert accountant will examine the record books and accounts of the various county offices, make a report upon the same to be submitted to this court at the subsequent term.

We desire to express thanks to your Honor for the information the court has extended to us.

Respectfully submitted,
G. W. Sparks, Foremsn.
Winnsboro, S. C., Feb. 23, 1905.

CASTORIA.
Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

Notice of Municipal Election—1905.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to provisions of Article 2, Chapter 49, Volume 1, of the Code of Laws of the year 1903, an election for Mayor and six Aldermen for the town of Winnsboro will be held in the town of Winnsboro, in the Town Hall, on the FIRST MONDAY, (the third day) OF APRIL, 1905. The polls will be open from 8 o'clock A. M. till 4 o'clock P. M. The following gentlemen are appointed managers to conduct the said election: John A. Hinnett, Longstreet Cantt and Robert Backstreet.
H. KETCHIN,
Mayor.

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BUY OTHER SEEDS WHEN YOU CAN GET
Buist's Reliable
for the same money? Our stock of these is full, and also a lot of WHITE AND RED ONION SETS.
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Geo. R. Lauderdale.

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JUST ARRIVED!
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BE SURE TO SEE THEM.
A. M. Owens.
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There is No Better Flour on the market than our
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Try It.
Call here for all your Groceries.
Everything for the farm in the way of Ploughs and Gears needed at this season of preparation.
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Just Arrived.
SEVERAL CARLOADS OF ROUGH (long leaf pine, good heart) and DRESSED LUMBER.
Also SASH, DOORS, MOULDING, LATHS, Etc.
A full supply of good HEART SHINGLES.
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Seven Million boxes sold in past 12 months. *This signature, E. H. Little* On every box. 25c.

(Continued on page four.)