

The Press and Banner

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

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W. M. P. GREENE, Editor

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LETHE.

Last Thursday we visited Lethe. We had been there before. It is a magnificent estate. It was given to the poor children of Abbeville District by a generous benefactor long years before the day of free schools. It has done a great work in its time, but the free schools have crippled it to some extent. It is still, however, a valuable estate and much good will come from it, if it be properly managed and looked after. The trustees now have a good man at the head of the school, and it is doing a good work. Twenty-four children, twelve girls and twelve boys, are being helped along life's journey through this institution.

It is believed, however, that the purposes of the testator could be better carried out, and the benefits proposed for the children of this county made of more value, if the school were enlarged through a state appropriation, and by allowing a certain number of children from other counties to attend. There is ample land for an industrial school, and no doubt some scheme can be worked out that will make the school a great deal more beneficial to the public than the present school, and at the same time the scheme and desire of the testator may be carried to completion.

We hope that some plan may suggest itself to the Governor and Legislature by which the estate may be made of lasting benefit to poor children of this district—and, too, to the poor children of other counties. But whatever is done should be as a monument to that noble Frenchman who came to live among us, and who left of his bounty this estate for the education and training of those most needy.

GOOD ROADS.

The road to Lethe and the Due West road are now in good shape except for a few washes due largely to recent rains. It is noticeable, though, even to the casual observer, that the roads are better where they have been widened than elsewhere; and they have suffered less at these points from washing.

We trust that the Supervisor will keep these facts in mind. The roads should be opened to a width of forty feet at all points. If the people along the roads will not give this width, no work should be done on their roads. It is a waste of the public money to pile dirt up in a narrow ridge to be washed away at the next rain. Most people are learning the value of good roads, and will readily contribute the necessary lands; others will learn from observation that only wide roads are good roads.

The value of a plantation is greatly enhanced to the owner who has produce to market or to the owner who wishes to sell, by a good road. You cannot sell lands without goods roads; and a farmer who makes crops for sale must have the roads to reach the market. Ten miles of good roads are traveled at less expense than five miles of muddy and rough roads. As soon as we appreciate these facts we shall make some progress.

"OUR INSTITUTIONS."

The educational issue of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian gotten out week before last by Brother Galloway and his force of excellent printers is a creditable effort. The paper carries cuts of the institutions at Due West and of some of the men at the head of these fine schools.

It has always been a source of regret to us that the people of the county have not appreciated the great advantages at their doors in these institutions. On last Saturday at Lethe, Senator Johnstone paid a great tribute to Erskine College, and to the men who have gone out from it. We wish that our own people could learn the value of these institutions of higher learning. The schools are denominational, it is true, but they are more than this, they are established for giving to all who apply the benefits of a good education along with good moral training.

We hope that the fine issue of the Presbyterian may turn the footsteps of more of our boys and girls towards Due West. It is a good place to go.

PORTER ON PROHIBITION

Our prohibition issue last week pleased a great many of our readers; some it did not please. We are

sorry for this. But we do not always agree on these subjects. Every man is entitled to his own opinion when reached by proper deduction from the arguments and facts before him. Nevertheless, we are thankful that a great many good men have commended the effort we have made, and the words we have spoken, in a cause we are convinced is right.

In today's issue is an earnest letter from Mr. Porter, of Willington. Mr. Porter is a young man of deep convictions on this subject. He is a logical thinker, and a good writer. You should read what he has to say. It is to the point; and Porter points to prohibition. He is right.

A NEW EDITOR.

Lewis W. Parker, of Greenville, has become associate editor of The Greenville Piedmont. Mr. Parker will add much to a paper already readable, as well as one of the best edited papers in the State.

The wide business experience of Mr. Parker, his intercourse and association with men of affairs, his extensive reading and learning, coupled with his just judgment and sound common sense, make him well qualified for the duties of editor of a wide-awake daily paper. That he will seek to educate his readers, and lead them aright, goes without saying.

The Press and Banner will watch his journalistic career with interest, and we shall look forward each evening, more than ever, to the pleasure of reading The Piedmont.

FUNNY PICTURES.

Some of our exchanges have profited by reading the Press and Banner. In order to please their readers they have adopted the "FUNNY PICTURES," as we did when we commenced to operate this paper. The Elberton Star is one of these papers adopting the pictures. But this good paper does not buy "Mutt and Jeff," nor "Get the Hook;" it prefers to amuse the children of that community with pictures of some of its own industry, and accordingly the children are enjoying the likenesses of some of Elberton's prominent men. Last week they laughed at Dr. A. S. Hawes.

LIQUOR SALES.

According to reports from the fifteen counties of the State operating dispensaries, there was sold by these institutions in the month of July liquors to the amount of a quarter of a million of dollars. Considering the amount of liquor shipped into these counties to blind tigers and to individuals, and the amount shipped into the dry counties of the state to blind tigers and individuals, the amount of liquors consumed by the people of this state during the last month will hardly be less than a half million of dollars. In the course of the year the amount consumed, calculating at the same rate, will amount to six millions of dollars, enough, we believe, to pay the bonded indebtedness of the state in a single year.

From these sales the fifteen counties of the state operating dispensaries claim to be receiving revenue; a small amount of money these counties, no doubt, do receive, but they are reaping, too, revenue in the shape of crime, lawlessness, drunkenness, and disorder.

Surely the people of the state are not nearly bankrupt when they are willing to give one hundred and fifty thousand bales of cotton (one-sixth of this year's crop) for an article, not only useless, but positively harmful.

And shall the people of this state acknowledge, at this late day, that they cannot raise revenue sufficient to run the state and county governments without selling to the citizens of this commonwealth six millions of dollars of intoxicating drink, whereby the women and children, in many cases, are robbed of all comfort and happiness in life, and oftentimes of even the necessities of life? And for how long will an enlightened public sentiment allow the serpent to lie at the door of this people?

The people of this state will have the opportunity at the approach election to strike a blow at liquor selling and liquor drinking. The people of this state are strongly for prohibition; but it should not be taken for granted that the election will carry in favor of prohibition. The forces on the other side will be busy; do not forget that. It is the duty of every man who is interested in making South Carolina free of rum to go to the polls early and vote. And remind your neighbor that he, too, should vote.

"TALKING IT OVER" IN ANDERSON DAILY MAIL.

Wyatt Aiken, Jr., the 18-year-old son of Congressman Wyatt Aiken, of Abbeville, is on a trip to the San Francisco exposition. He is making the trip alone and on money that he made himself. When it was an-

nounced several years ago that the exposition would be held in San Francisco in 1915 young Aiken made up his mind that he would go and he has been getting ready for it ever since. He began working at every odd job that he could get, during school and between terms, and every dollar that he made he put in the bank. He denied himself all luxuries and extravagances and developed into almost a miser. Some months ago he began studying railroad schedules and mapped out his itinerary for every day that he would be gone. He travels almost entirely in day time, and if he travels at night he rides in a day coach. He says it was too hard to make his money to spend any of it on Pullman cars. He stops off at nearly every large town on the way and spends his nights in that way. He is taking plenty of time and is seeing all the country. He went by the southern route, by way of New Orleans, and his plan is to come back by the northern route, by way of the Grand Canyon, Chicago and Cincinnati. He is about half through the trip now and letters received from him say he is getting along splendidly. He has not had an accident nor any trouble of any kind. His father did not at first like the idea of a boy of his age undertaking such a trip alone, but finally decided that as he had made the money himself, it would be too cruel not to let him spend it as he had his heart set on spending it.

ARE THE CHAIN GANGS WISE?

(The News and Courier.)

The Abbeville Press and Banner raises a point which needs to be considered when it urges that the county could save money and secure larger and more satisfactory results if it would abandon once and for all the present plan of trying to keep the public highways in condition by means of convicts.

There are no doubts on The Press and Banner's part as to the soundness of the view it takes as to this matter. "The people had as well realize," it says, "that the county chain gang with its numerous bosses and guards must go, or the county will be bankrupt. The expenses of maintaining this institution so far out-measure the visible results that a thoughtful business man should abandon the enterprise. It takes too much money to guard these convicts, and too much to feed, clothe, and maintain them; too much to keep the organization going to make it anything except a constant drain upon the resources of this county. At least half the time the roads are not in condition to be worked; and the convicts are idle in so far as doing effective work is concerned. But during this time the salaries of the guards and bosses, the meat bills, and the bread bills, the feed for stock and other expenses, all these, like interest, go on—go on night and day and on Sundays."

This is a strong presentation of the case against the county chain gang, and we are inclined to believe that The Press and Banner knows what it is talking about. If not, it would be well worth while to hear to the contrary.

Of course the point may be raised that something has to be done with the convicts and that this is the best use which can be made of them. That is a matter which ought to be taken into consideration, of course, but if the average county is losing money on its chain gang then it would seem to follow that some better plan of providing for offenders ought to be discovered.

The mere fact that labor is free does not make it cheap; and it is time this assumption were dismissed and the whole question brought forward by our Abbeville contemporary made the subject of a comprehensive study on the part of the citizenship of each county.

MR. PORTER WRITES ON KING ALCOHOL. SMITE HIM!

Willington, S. C., August 12, 1915

Editor Press and Banner:— Your editorial in the issue of August 11th, deserves the hearty endorsement of every reader of your paper. When you comment on Prohibition you touch upon the cause that lies nearest and dearest to my heart and a cause that vitally concerns every man, woman and child in our land and should especially appeal to the wives and mothers of our country.

For the life of me I cannot see how any fair minded man can favor the sale of whiskey in any shape or form. Viewed from any angle you please to look from, it is an arch enemy. As a medicine it is a failure, but as a destroyer of human life and happiness it is a paramount success, it has no equal. It is "Double Distilled Damnation."

From a religious standpoint it is, as expressed by "Bob" Ingersoll, God's worst enemy and the Devil's best friend. Many passages of scripture can be quoted where its use is severely criticised and condemned in emphatic language. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is

NOT WISE." Are we going to be FOOLS any longer?

From an economical standpoint it constitutes the greatest drain upon our nation. The money spent for alcoholic liquors last year in the United States would build six Panama canals; it would educate every child; it would more than pay the national debt and if I have the figures correct it would more than pay the capital stock of all the National Banks and have seven hundred million dollars left. We spent several millions (I haven't the exact figures) last year for foreign missions but when that amount is compared with what we spent for alcohol it pales into insignificance. It would build a fine macadamized road around the world twelve times.

From a humanitarian standpoint it is painful to discuss. It brings poverty, suffering, insanity, disease, trouble, sorrow, heartaches, death, destruction and HELL. What more painful sight, heartrending in its nature can your imagination picture than to see a mother on a cold winter night hovering over a few coals with her darling little children waiting for the return of a drunken husband who is spending his substance in riotous living while his dear wife, whom he has sworn to love, protect and cherish, is suffering for support and companionship. Oh! how terrible to think of, yet it is a common sight. Oh, what will pay for a mother's broken heart. Nothing can ruin a wife's happiness more completely than her husband's debauchery.

That old argument about prohibition taking away a man's personal liberty, is the greatest farce I know. It does not take away personal liberty but on the other hand, restores personal liberty. When as is too often the case a man will make any kind of promise, tell any kind of a lie, spend his last dime yea, sell his soul for a drink, WHERE IS HIS PERSONAL LIBERTY? Is he not bound hand and foot in the fetters of King Alcohol? He has the same right to drink as any other man has to use morphine or cocaine. Other people's rights must be taken into consideration also. A drunk man is a menace to society, to his family, to his friends and to the public generally and to all who come into contact with him. Who wants to ride on a train with a drunken engineer or with a drunken dispatcher at the wire? Not I, nor you either, nor even a drunk man. You may say that that does not occur, but let me tell you, a drunkard is liable to get drunk at any time, at any place, regardless of what he has to do or to face, if he can get the alcohol. He has an insane delusion that with a drink he can do most anything. Drunkenness is insanity. Alcohol is filling our asylums, penitentiaries, hospitals, almshouses and graveyards. Alcohol is the real cause of hard times, not the low price of cotton. If the South had the money she has spent for liquors in the last few years she could buy her entire cotton crop and burn it up and not miss the money.

Think of the many young lives that have been sacrificed to drink. Think of the broken hearted mothers, fathers, and wives in our land who owe their sad, unhappy condition solely to the use of whiskey by their loved ones. It did for Philip of Macedon and Alexander the Great, what the armies of the world could not do. It has killed more men than all the wars of the world. The drunkards are dying fast, their ranks must be filled. Fathers are you willing that your sons help fill the ranks? No! a thousand times No! Some fathers and mothers and sons will do it and if you do not want it to be yours you must work and work hard and untiring for prohibition.

On September 14th let's see that Abbeville county goes solid for prohibition. Alcohol has for a long, long time been emperor of Russia and Germany, president of France, king of England and Monarch of the United States, but his throne is tottering and will soon fall. Success will soon be ours but we must work and work hard for the forces of evil are pressing hard. "At the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

Respectfully,
J. Edwin Porter.

COL. ROCHE QUILTS THE GAME WITH A BUNCH OF TRUMPS ALL BALLED UP IN HIS HAND.

Editor Press and Banner:—

From several locals appearing in recent issues of your paper, your readers would infer that I am cultivating or trying to cultivate a reputation as a professional set-back player, this I wish to deny. A professional set-back player is something to be dreaded by any community. Infatuated by the game himself he is continually wanting someone to play with him, thereby rendering himself a nuisance. As I have no aspiration on this line I have cut the pestiferous game out.

Very truly,
Pat Roche.

ADVICE TO GARDENERS.

People who are interested in a Fall garden are getting busy preparing their ground and are asking their friends if it is the right time to plant turnips. Take the advice of an expert, and remember, it is too early to plant turnips, but is a good time to plant ruta bagas. It is also time to plant for a Fall crop of lettuce and people interested in celery should order their plants.

The middle of September is the best time to plant turnips and always be careful to plant in the dark of the moon. Spinach, radishes, onions, beets and carrots should also be planted in September.

Beans planted now will come on late in the fall.

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