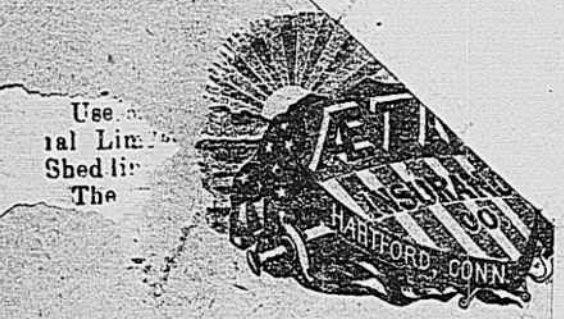


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Will protect you against loss by Fire, Death, Accidents, Sickness and Wind Storms.  
 It will be a pleasure to serve you at all times and your business will be heartily appreciated.

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We have now on hand 75 head of choice Horses and Mules. Now is the time to make your purchases. Our prices are as low as can be made, quality considered.

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Everything in fertilizers, plant foods and agricultural chemicals.  
 Blood and Bone goods, Fish goods and Cotton Seed Meal Mixtures.  
 These reliable fertilizers have been tried by the trade for over a third of a century, and their increasing popularity attests their merit.  
 Using them is therefore no experiment.  
 Factories Augusta, Ga., Pon Pon, S. C.  
 Sold exclusively at Edgefield by the

**EDGEFIELD MERCANTILE COMPANY.**  
 Call on them for further information.

## A DEADLY TORNADO Sweeps Over the City of Meridian, Miss.

Reports of Appalling Loss of Life in Stricken Mississippi City Were Due to Chaos Following Tornado, but Actual Situation is Bad Enough—State Legislature Appropriates \$5,000, Citizens Having Previously Subscribed \$3,000 and Gov. Vardaman Sends Special Train With Convicts to Aid in Work.

Meridian, Miss., Special.—Nineteen people are known to have been killed in the tornado which swept over the city shortly after 6 p. m. Twenty-four injured and property of an estimated value of \$1,000,000 or otherwise damaged. Reports were sent to the chaotic city of an appalling loss of life immediately following the storm, but the full carnage of the situation following list of dead is not complete:

McGinnis, conductor on Ohio, killed at Ebraira's yards, flagman Mobile & at Elmira's restaurant. Perry, policeman, killed in transfer stables. Ison, killed in Thornton's

Singleton and Little, killed in East End. Smith, engineer, killed at restaurant. Hart and little son, of Cot

Williams, bookkeeper Mey-Hardware Company, Meridian, restaurant proprietor.

A negro man and little girl, killed at street. A negro woman, killed near street. A negro woman, killed at George

Mississippi legislature, in session, appropriated \$5,000 for relief. Governor Vardaman sent a special train, and tonight convicts from the Rankin penitentiary, dispatched it at once to Meridian.

The city now enjoys the spectacle of State convicts at rescue work.

State and after correspondence with the home office it is evident that we cannot secure such a list from the company. Meanwhile the agents of the company have been instructed to secure proxies in the name of Messrs. Straus, Claffin and Mackay of New York and many of the policyholders of the company in this State have given their proxies to the agents in the name of these gentlemen. While desiring to work in accord with the officers of the company so long as their efforts are directed to the conservation of the interests of the policyholders, the executive committee considers that the original plan of the association should be adhered to and that the policyholders in order to be fully protected, should give their proxies to the three trustees selected by the committee in accord with the resolution of the meeting held on the 18th of January. This committee consists of Messrs. T. B. Stackhouse of Columbia, L. W. Parker of Greenville and Jas. A. Hoyt of Columbia.

This committee is pledged to vote the South Carolina proxies for the protection of the policyholders. The committee will also vote the proxies and work for the election of Gov. D. C. Heyward as a trustee of the company at the annual meeting, as instructed by the association.

Policyholders desiring to cooperate with the association in the manner outlined will fill out a proxy as given below and send to any one of the committee named therein.

T. B. STACKHOUSE, President.

JAS. A. HOYT, Secretary.

**Bankers to Meet at Lookout.**  
 Nashville, Special.—The executive committee of the State Bankers association decided on Lookout Mountain as the place for the coming convention which will be held June 6th and 7th.

**Seaboard Offices Burned.**  
 Portsmouth, Va., Special.—The general office building of the Seaboard Air Line Railway here was entirely destroyed, except the walls, by fire which started at 5:30 o'clock Sunday morning, and while the monetary loss was only approximately \$25,000, there were many valuable records and official papers of the road destroyed.

**10,000 Souls Lost.**  
 San Francisco, Special.—The Evening Post states that 10,000 persons perished during the storm on Tahiti and adjacent islands, several of which its account says, have disappeared. It places the damage at \$5,000,000. These reports have not been confirmed by the officers of the steamer Mariposa, which brought the news of the disaster from Papeete.

## CHANGES IN SCHOOL LAW

Time for Voting Special School Taxes Extended—Calhoun's Birthday to be Observed.

State Superintendent of Education Martin recently sent out to the county superintendents of education several circular letters concerning provisions made by the recent session of the general assembly in regard to the schools of the State. One of these relates to the law making Calhoun's birthday a holiday, another to the purchase of Dr. Eliza's history of the Jews in South Carolina, and the third to the time for voting special taxes for local school purposes.

As these letters contain information of value to the school they are given as follows:  
 To the County Superintendents.  
 Gentlemen: Some time ago we sent you some petition forms to aid in voting local taxes. Now is a good time to press this work. The legislature, at its recent session, amended section 1208, so that local taxes may be voted at any time during the year. The amended law provides that taxes voted after October 1st shall not be collected until the following year.

The legislature renewed the appropriation for libraries. According to our records, more than 700 libraries have been established and more than 100 enlarged, since the library law was enacted two years ago. If you continue to push this work as you have done, we shall pass the 1,000 mark before the close of the year. Many of the libraries already established should be enlarged. They may be enlarged every year.

The general assembly amended section 1200 of the school law, as follows: "Provided, further, That the State board of education shall examine into the curriculum, standing, faculty and equipment of each institution, and see that it is doing real college work before certificates may be issued on its diplomas." The State board is now making such examination, and will communicate results to you as soon as possible. In the meantime, the list heretofore sent you should be enforced.

A law was passed requiring Calhoun's birthday, March 18th, to be celebrated with special exercises in the schools. I send special circular on this point.

The dog law was amended so that the money shall be spent in the district where it is collected. It is the duty of trustees and other school officers to see that all of the dogs in each district are returned for taxation.

We are having the school law printed, and will send you a supply as soon as possible.  
 Sincerely yours,  
 O. B. Martin,  
 State Superintendent of Education.

Copies of Dr. Eliza's book for school libraries can be had from Mr. Martin on application, express charges to be paid by the school or college.

Another of the letters is as follows:  
 To Superintendents and Teachers:  
 Allow me to call your special attention to the set of the recent legislature to provide for the celebration of South Carolina day in the public schools. It is as follows: "That the public schools of this State shall observe Calhoun's birthday, the 18th of March of each year, as 'South Carolina day,' and on that day the school officers and teachers shall conduct such exercises as will conduce to a more general knowledge and appreciation of the history, resources and possibilities of this State: Provided, That if the said day shall fall on Saturday or Sunday, the Friday nearest to March 18th shall be selected: Provided, further, That if any school shall not be in session on the said date, the celebration may be held before the close of the term. That the State superintendent of education shall suggest such topics or programmes as he may deem appropriate for the celebration of 'South Carolina day.'"

Inasmuch as the time is so short, it will be impossible to issue a pamphlet on this subject this year. I should like to suggest, however, that you make a programme from the best material available. Of course, you will find excellent material for study and for essays in encyclopaedias, histories and magazines. You ought to get some fine essays on Calhoun. You will find good selections in many of the books in the school libraries, such as Palmetto Stories, Our Country's Flag, History of the Old Cheraws, South Carolina Women in the Confederacy, Southern Poets, Timrod's Poems, Story of the Thirteen Colonies, etc. You might take advantage of this day to raise money to get books for your libraries, which treat of the "history, resources and possibilities of South Carolina."

I shall be glad to receive any poems, essays and selections which you wish suitable to be incorporated in the pamphlet to be used hereafter in the celebration of South Carolina day.  
 Sincerely yours,  
 O. B. Martin,  
 State Superintendent of Education.

**New Corporations.**  
 A charter was also issued to the Greenwood Undertaking company, capitalized at \$2,000. The officers are: C. S. Franklin, president, and C. L. Henderson, vice president.  
 The Secretary of State has chartered the Farmers' Supply company of Kingsree, capitalized at \$10,000. The officers are: W. C. Nexom, president, and H. E. Montgomery, secretary and treasurer.

## Don't Buy Planet, Jr. or Iron Age Farm or Garden Tools

Until you have thoroughly examined our large stock. We can save you from \$1. to \$5. on each implement. That's worth thinking about! Come to see us.

**FREE Our New Catalog FREE**  
 of the best Seed for the South. With every order for one dollar's worth or more of seed we give FREE one year's subscription to the SOUTH-EASTERN RURALIST—the best farm and garden paper in the South.  
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 Write at once or call at our store in Meridian town.

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## MONEY SAVED Is Money Gained.

Consult your own interest. Open Buggy including Harness and Umbrella for \$50.00, or Top Buggy complete for \$49.00. Remember, I Sell Goods Lower than any other house in the South. Chase's Fine Plush robes, from \$1. up. These are now being sold at a sacrifice of 40%, the most beautiful line ever sold in Augusta. I am also sacrificing T.unks, Satchels, Suit Cases, etc., to make room for other lines. Sole agent for the famous Babcock vehicles and the best farm wagons on the market.

**H. H. COSKERY,**  
 The Carriage and Hardware Man of Ga.,  
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 Ready Roofing and other Material.  
 Write Us For Prices.  
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**FURNITURE.**  
 Large Shipments of the best makes of wagons and buggies just received. Our stock of furniture and house furnishings is complete. A Large stock.

## COFFINS and CASKETS.

always on hand. All calls for our Hearse promptly responded to. All goods sold on a small margin of profit. Call to see me, I will save you money.

## GEO. P. COBB.

Johnston, South Carolina.  
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**ARRINGTON BROS.**

**COMPANY,**  
 839 Broad  
 W. F. SAMPLE of Saluda County and H. H. SCOTT, JR., of Edgefield County are with us and want to see you.

## For Fire and Life INSURANCE

GO TO SEE  
**CAUGHMAN & HARLING**  
 BEFORE INSURING ELSEWHERE.  
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## NEW SHOP.

My Carriage and Repair Shop at the Grand Stables is now well equipped. I invite you to inspect it.  
 Large force of competent workmen.  
 of the best material always on hand.  
 Can build you a new carriage or repair one on short notice.  
 Fire Safe in the best possible location.  
 Guaranteed.  
**F. W. SAMUEL.**

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Dealers in  
 Pianos, Organs and Sewing Machines. Also the Cecilian Piano Player.  
**SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.**

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**NINETY SIX, S. C.**