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October 13ts

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John Black To Go Free.

[Columbia Record].

Governor Blease commuted, Monday, the sentence of Major John Black of Columbia, former director of the State Dispensary, to five years in the penitentiary or a fine of \$2.000. Major Black was tried at Chester in the fall of 1910, on the charge of conspiracy to defraud the State, and upon conviction—the co-defendants, Jodie M. Rawlinson and J. Lee Solomons being acquitted—was sentenced to serve five years in the penitentiary. Governor Blease's action of Monday effected the commutation of this sentence by allowing the alternative of a fine.

This exercise of executive clemencal in Major Black's behalf recalls Governor Blease's often repeated declaration on the stump, "I stand by my friends," and his statement in the senate, when it was proposed to allow the attorney general a special fund for the prosecution of dispensary grafters, that John Black was his friend and he intended standing by him; "and if necessary I will go to the penitentiary with nim."

Acceptance of commutation by Major Black terminates, automatically, his pending appeal to the supreme court. The law books say also that "acceptance of a pardon has the same legal effect as a confession of guilt or of the existence of a state of facts from which judgment of guilt would follow (Enc. L.w, Vol. 24, p. 579), and the same authority says: "Since the acceptance of a pardon ed. admits the recipient's guilt, when a pardon is accepted, pending an appeal, its acceptance operates as an admission that the criminal was rightly convicted and therefore constitutes ipso facto a waiver of exceptions taken at the trial." Pardon and commutation are classed as of a piece. In this case the appeal had not been perfected and thus the practice outlined for dismissal of the appeal need not be followed: "So where a pardon is granted, accepted and brought to the attention of the court, pending an appeal, the appeal will be dismissed." "The criminal," says the law books, "cannot be torced to accept a pardon."

TEXT OF THE ORDER.

Governor Blease issued the commutation without comment, merely directing his private secretary, Mr. Alexander Rowland, to make out the usual form. When this had been signed in duplicate, a copy was placed in the drawer where documents intended for the inspection of newspaper men are deposited.

The paper reads:

"Whereas, at a Court of General Sessions and Common Pleas, begun and holden at Chester County at the November term, 1910, before Judge (special) Ernest Moore, one John Black was convicted of conspiracy to defraud the State and was sentenced to five years in the State Penitentiary, now know ye:

"That for divers good causes and considerations me hereunto moving, I have thought fit to commute, and by these presents do commute the sentence of the said John Black to five years in the State Positientiary, or pay a fine of \$2,000.

"Colo L. Blease, Governor."
The commutation is dated the 27th of February, the 135th year of the Independence of the United States of America.

Prof. Lindler Seriously III

The many friends of Prof. S. S. Lindler will be pained to learn that he is scriously ill with pneumonia at his home on Hollow Creek. Prof. Lindler was forced to give up his school more than a week ago and has been growing worse ever since. In addition to the physicians who are daily in attendance at his bedside, Miss Altee, an experienced trained nurse from Columbia, is also in attendance.

Word Meetze

On hoon Mr. Lonnie
T. Med lezzie Weed were
quietly at the home of the
bride's father, Mr. S. T. Weed, at
Irmo, the ceremony being performed
by the Rev. Mr. Roof.

Whiskey Constables to Enforce Factory Laws.

Governor Blease has made factory inspectors out of the whiskey constables. That is in addition to keeping down blindtigers the constables are required to visit all factories at least once a month and report to the governor.

It will be the duty of whiskey constables, besides enforcing whiskey laws and others, to secure statistics relating to all drprrtments of labor in this state such as the hours of labor cost of living, supply of labor required estimated number of persons depending on labor for their support, the statistics to be classified as follows: Agricultural, in manufacturing and mechanical industries, in transportation and in clerical and all other skilled and unskilled labor not above enumerated

The whiskey constables will also be required to give tistics as to the amount invested in lands, buildings, machinery, material, and means of production and distribution generally. The number, age, sex and condition of persons employed: the nature of their employment, the number of hours of labor per day and the wages received in each of the industries and employments enumerated,

There are many other duties of the factory inspectors, such as ascertaining the sanitary condition of factories and all other manufacturing plants where five or more people are employed.

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1892.

1911.

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