

KEOWEE COURIER

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—(By)—
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WALHALLA, S. C.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1911.

THE OLD AND THE NEW.

Yesterday Governor Martin F. Ansel stepped down from the high official position that he has occupied for the past four years and entered again upon the duties of a private citizen. In private life and in official position he has always been found faithful to every trust, and however widely we or any other may have differed from him in matters of policy, we believe there are few indeed who will assert that he has ever acted otherwise than according to the dictates of a conscience that prompted him in the interest of what he deemed best, and on the side of honor and honesty always.

On this the beginning of his re-entry into the ranks of private life we congratulate him upon the work of the four years during which he occupied the Governor's chair, and we wish him Godspeed in the work of a private citizen, which is no mean estate where the responsibilities of private life are fully realized. Mr. Ansel's four years of service do credit to him, to his native county of Oconee and to the State at large.

And as Mr. Ansel steps down and out Mr. Blease assumes the high position of Governor of South Carolina. He assumes the responsibilities of the office with the eyes of the whole State riveted upon him. What his future in his new position may be rests with him. We make that assertion with the full realization that it is a broad assertion; but we know that Cole L. Blease is a man with ability—annual ability—and that he has the opportunity to make of himself one of the most useful men in the present-day history of this proud old State.

We opposed his election because we honestly felt that there were others better fitted to assume the duties of the office of Governor. Nevertheless a majority of the citizens of the State differed from us in our beliefs, and to-day Mr. Blease is our Governor as well as the Governor of every other citizen of the State.

In his official capacity we wish him the highest degree of success. It will be our pleasure, when he shall close his work as Governor, to be able to accord him the highest praises for work well and conscientiously done. No man has ever entered the Governor's chair with greater possibilities than does Coleman Livingston Blease. May he meet with characteristic ability and fearlessness every duty that the high office to which he has been chosen shall present.

VEKED QUESTION OF TAXATION.

The question of taxation has been coming before the people and their representatives in official circles for years, and so far there has been no remedy applied for the many evils that exist in the system under which we are working. This question of taxation in South Carolina is one among several that will have to be hammered at continually without wearying in the good work until finally the remedy is applied that will give relief.

The most hopeful sign at the present is the fact that the State itself is realizing that not only are the honest tax-payers being unnecessarily burdened with heavy taxes by our tax methods, but the State itself is suffering from a lack of funds, due to the fact that the State is getting smaller every year from the peculiar situation that permits of a great shrinkage in land acreage as well as land values. It is particularly striking to the thinking person that such a condition should exist at this time, when, as a matter of fact, every foot of land within the borders of South Carolina bears some increase in value each year. And yet the owners of this land not only decrease its value when they return it for taxation, but in many instances drop it from the tax books entirely.

We are glad that the Comptroller General is taking an active interest in the matter, and is endeavoring to have the situation cleared up as to the loss of this valuable property from the tax records of the State. Some very interesting statements are contained in the report of Comptroller General Jones to the General Assembly, from which we take the following:

"Over a million acres of land in

this State are escaping taxation, for the reason that they are not on the tax duplicates and cannot be put there until definitely located in some particular tax district.

"Annually petitions are sent to this office asking abatements on account of reductions in the acreage of plantations and other tracts of land shown by new surveys. But we never hear of an increase in acreage. The whole tendency is toward a shrinkage of lands, in both area and value. By this process thousands of dollars are annually lost to State, county and public school funds.

"The only official survey of the State is Mills' Atlas, published in 1825, showing the district and parish lines then existing. It is extremely difficult now to determine in what school districts lands lie, and more difficult to determine the quantity lying in any given district. This, too, is shown by the large number of petitions for abatement in the assessment of special school taxes in school districts.

"A taxpayer owns one body of land lying in two adjoining school districts; in one district a local school tax may be levied, and in the other none. No one knows the location of the district lines. It is to the advantage of the taxpayer to return his land in the district without the local tax; the situation invites him to do this, and he so does.

"In laying off a school district for special taxation, it is to the interest of the district to include as much taxable property as possible. Since railroads and manufacturing plants run up the property valuation rapidly, some counties have been so gerrymandered as to create districts of the most absurd and inconvenient shapes. Besides, such property is unjustly taken from districts to which it rightfully belongs.

"An accurate survey and location of district lines, public roads and waters would more than pay for itself in the increased revenue from the additional area now escaping taxation. Aside from enabling the citizens to locate definitely their property in the proper tax districts and giving additional revenue, such survey would tend toward the avoidance of law suits growing out of indefinite descriptions of lands in deeds, mortgages and other instruments.

"If the outer lines of the tax districts of the State are once definitely located it will be an easy matter for the counties to complete the surveys at their convenience, so as to show roads and waters. The surveys should be made on a common basis and standard for the entire State, and under the supervision of the tax board."

We note from the letters of our Senator and Representatives this week that, judging from the first few days of the present session of the General Assembly, this will be another session noted for its "multiplicity of bills."

The members from all over the State could do their respective constituents a great service if they would cease to multiply bills, getting down to active and earnest work on one or two important subjects and sticking to them until something of real value to the State government and to the individuals who compose it is accomplished. The present session could well be employed in attending to the needs of the State in financial matters and devising some practical system by which the tax-paying public could be placed upon an equal footing, the State at the same time being protected from the evils that follow a system so lax and out of date that "the State grows smaller" year by year, and, in spite of advancing land values, the tax values actually decrease.

Some system must sooner or later be adopted, and the sooner the better for all concerned. We must have some system in the matter of perfecting the tax records of land so that they cannot "shrink," with the provision for means adequate to compel an honest valuation of the property returned. If we cannot make honest returns voluntarily, then we need some method by which we can have "compulsory honesty."

The matter has been neglected too long already, and the General Assembly that sits out this vexed question of taxation in South Carolina, providing some system by which those who pay the taxes can be placed upon an equality, will have done that which will justly immortalize it.

Kill More than Wild Beasts.

The number of people killed yearly by wild beasts don't approach the vast number killed by disease germs. No life is safe from their attacks. They're in air, water, dust, even food. But grand protection is afforded by Electric Bitters, which destroy and expel these deadly disease germs from the system. That's why chills, fever and ague, all malarial and many blood diseases yield promptly to this wonderful blood purifier. Try them, and enjoy the glorious health and new strength they'll give you. Money back if not satisfied. Only 50c. at all druggists.

Card of Thanks.

Editor Keowee Courier: Please allow space in your paper for us to thank the good people for their help and kindness during the sickness and death of our dear wife and mother, May God's rich blessings rest upon all.

Whit Knox.
Children and Mother.

Meeting Coneross Local Union.

Coneross Local Union, No. 76, is hereby called to meet Saturday, January 31, at 3 p. m. All the members are requested to be present. The new officers are to be installed and other business of importance to be attended to.

T. L. Alexander, Sec.

WIRE FENCES NEAR PUBLIC ROAD.

The Board of County Commissioners call attention to the following act of the Legislature:

"All persons or corporations building or using a barbed or edged wire fence within fifty feet of any public highway, shall nail or place a plank or pole on or near the top of said fence. Provided, That the said plank or pole be not required when there is such an embankment at the side of the road as shall, in the judgment of the road overseer of such road, render it safe from injury to stock traveling said road, without such plank or pole being on said fence.

"All persons violating this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not exceeding one hundred dollars or imprisonment not exceeding thirty days."

N. PHILLIPS,
County Supervisor.
JAMES SEABORN, Clerk.
January 18, 1911.

WANTED.—Orders for cabbage plants—grown in fields and frost-proof. 1,000 crated \$1.25; or more \$1 per thousand. F. O. B. Young's Island. Address, Ernest M. DuPre Co., Columbia, S. C. 2-5

Legal Blanks.

NICEST PRINTED AND BEST FORMS.

Latest Crop Mortgage Blanks.
Per dozen, 8 1/2 x 14 25c.
Per quire 40c.
We handle all kinds of blanks and print anything to your order.
Cash with order in above quantities.

Oulla & Morrow,
Manufacturing Stationers,
ANDERSON, S. C.

OCONEE COFFIN AND CASKET CO.

Our plant began operation January 2, 1911. We manufacture all kinds and sizes of coffins and caskets. Prices reasonable. You can save money by buying directly from us. Plant located in Midway, on lot of Hetrick Hosiery Mills. Call on us.

C. B. MORTON, M'g'r.
January 11, 1911. 2-11

The Perils of Life Constantly Increase.

Daily we read of men, women and children being killed and maimed for life.

Formerly wars killed and maimed men, and is it not distressing when wars cease that advancing civilization claims more victims than war? Increased railway facilities, additional automobiles, the growth of cities and towns and even the advent of each life increases our danger from accident and disease.

Are you endeavoring to protect yourself, your home and loved ones before it is too late?

I have attractive Life, Fire, Accident and Health policies at nominal cost. Easy terms.

If It Is Security in Insurance you want, I have it.

JAS. M. MOSS,
Walhalla, S. C.

MASTER'S SALE.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF OCONEE.

In Court of Common Pleas.

Pursuant to a decree of the aforesaid Court, in the case named below, I will offer for sale, to the highest bidder, in front of the Court House door, at Walhalla, S. C., on Monday, the 6th day of February, 1911, between the legal hours of sale, the tract of land below described:

Thomas E. Alexander, Plaintiff,
against
Oliver Standridge, Defendant.

All that certain piece, parcel or tract of land, situate, lying and being in the county and State aforesaid, on Big Brasstown Creek, waters of Tugaloo River, adjoining lands of James Lee, Tom Patten, Ups Powell and others, known as Standridge land, containing ninety-five acres, more or less, the same bought by Oliver Standridge from Ab Standridge, Jim Standridge, Seamore Standridge, Rebecca Yearwood, John Standridge and his mother, Charlotte Standridge.

Terms of Sale: Cash. That in event of failure of the purchaser or purchasers to comply with the terms of sale within five days from day of sale, the Master do re-advertise and resell said premises on the following sale day, or some convenient sale day thereafter, at the same place and on the same terms as heretofore set out, at the risk of the former purchaser or purchasers, and that he do continue so to do until he has found a purchaser, or purchasers, who comply with the terms of sale.

Purchaser to pay extra for papers.
W. O. WHITE,
Master for Oconee County, S. C.
January 18, 1911. 3-5

SUMMONS FOR RELIEF.

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF OCONEE.

In Court of Common Pleas.

William J. Stribling, Plaintiff,
against
Tressy Holmes, Sam Holmes, James Holmes, Ben Holmes, Ida Belle Holmes, George Holmes, Rhody Holmes and Mary Holmes, Defendants.

(Complaint for Relief.)

To the Defendants Above Named: You are hereby summoned and required to answer the complaint in this action, of which a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the said complaint on the subscribers, at their office on the Public Square, at Walhalla Court House, South Carolina, within twenty days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer the complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Dated this twentieth day of December, 1910.
STRIBLING & DENDY,
Plaintiff's Attorneys.
January 18, 1911. 3-8

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND DISCHARGE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will make application to D. A. Smith, Judge of Probate for Oconee County, in the State of South Carolina, at his office at Walhalla Court House, on Wednesday, the 8th day of February, 1911, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, or as soon thereafter as said application can be heard, for leave to make final settlement of the Estate of W. R. Ables, deceased, and obtain final discharge as Administratrix of said estate.

MRS. IDA ABLES,
Administratrix.
January 11, 1911. 2-5

Dr. King's New Life Pills
The best in the world.

LAUNDRY! WE HAVE ALL THE NEWEST THINGS!



WHEN THINGS ARE PUT THROUGH THE WASH YOU CAN TELL WHAT THEY ARE.

OUR STORE HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME. WE KEEP UP WITH THE NEW THINGS IN OUR BUSINESS.

WHEN YOU NEED WASH-DAY THINGS REMEMBER WE HAVE THEM.

WE KEEP UP OUR STOCK IN ALL LINES OF HARDWARE.

YOU CAN FIND IT AT OUR STORE.

MATHESON HARDWARE CO.
Westminster, S. C.

Change in Business Sale.

We have decided to make a change in business, and for

The Next 10 Days

We are going to make specially low prices on our stock of Buggies, Wagons, Harness, Clothing, Overcoats, Shoes, Dry Goods, Underwear, Ladies' Capes, Jackets, Skirts.

Plantation Granulated Sugar 20 pounds for \$1.00.

Carter & Co.,

WALHALLA, S. C.

Here Ready For You

We Are Better Prepared than Ever to Serve Customers and Friends.

We have a complete line of Dry Goods and Notions—the best and at the lowest prices.

12 YDS. Best Yard-wide Bleaching for \$1.00

We invite special attention to OUR CLOTHING

for Men and Boys. Our SPECIAL SUITS at \$12.50 are Bargains that you should see before you make your fall purchase.

OUR MEN'S HATS

are Stylish and cheap enough.

OUR SHOES

are strictly up to date and down to the last minute. All the Toes and Leathers you will want in Ladies' Shoes.

MEN'S TIES, COLLARS, SOCKS.

We will be glad to show you through our stock, and we guarantee our goods to be just as represented.

YOURS FOR BUSINESS,

Moss & Ansel,

Cement Front,

Walhalla, S. C.

Removal Sale.

We are going to move in about 10 days, and we are making special prices on Guns, Rifles, Wagons, Harness, Plow Handles, Stoves, Ranges, Sewing Machines, Enamelware.

Georgia Ratchet Plow Stocks 75c.

Circle Foot Plow Stocks 85c.

Also Peg Harrows, Disc Harrows, Disc and Turn Plows.

CARTER HARDWARE Co.,
Walhalla, S. C.