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—By—
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WALHALLA, S. C.:
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11, 1912.

OUR EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

During last month, when the National Farmers' Congress was in session in New Orleans resolutions were adopted by that body that "a committee from the congress, composed of five members at large and one member from each State, should be appointed to investigate the question of consolidating rural schools." The proposed consolidation, it is believed, would tend to greater efficiency in the schools and help to solve the problem of how to stop the drift from the farm to the city.

Possibly no work in the field of education has contributed so largely to the upbuilding of the public schools of South Carolina—and especially in the Piedmont section of the State—as the consolidation of rural schools into centrally located high schools, where facilities are better, better teachers are secured, and where better work can be done even when the same teachers are employed.

Not long since State Superintendent of Education Swearingen called upon the County Superintendents of Education for reports from actual work accomplished through the medium of the consolidation of rural schools. These reports have been sent in, and, should the committee from the National Farmers' Congress investigate results in South Carolina, they will find something indeed worthy of reporting back to that body.

These reports are necessarily too voluminous for us to attempt to reproduce here, but we may take as fair examples those sent in by the Superintendents of Education of Anderson and Oconee counties, from which we quote those portions referring to the question of consolidation. In Anderson the result is worthy of careful study. The Superintendent

of the past 15 months has consolidated twelve schools into six. In five different districts a consolidation of two schools into one has been effected. In the other instance the consolidation has been brought about by merging two districts into one, and then consolidating the schools.

"One of these consolidated schools has erected a modern two-room building, costing \$1,300; two others have three-room buildings, costing from \$1,500 to \$2,000; a fourth has a four-room building valued at over \$3,000; the two others have selected plans for a modern one-room building and a modern three-room building, respectively. In each of the above instances very ordinary buildings of the one or two-room 'box car type' have been displaced. In each instance the beginning of the improvement has been the voting of a local school tax."

In Oconee we have made, possibly, greater strides along these lines than have been made in Anderson, and we quote more extensively from the report of Superintendent Hughes. He says:

"As a result of the extra taxes levied by the districts, there will have been secured from the State, by January 1st, 1913, for weak and rural graded schools, something over \$8,000. Five high schools in the county have been receiving nearly \$2,000 a year regularly. Six new buildings have been erected in the rural districts, aided by the State to the extent of \$1,600, and \$1,250 by the county."

"Eight weak schools have been consolidated into three, two of which have modern three-room houses with three teachers. The idea of consolidation seems to be rather repugnant to the majority of our people as yet, and strong opposition was encountered in the districts consolidated. But the County Board saw the need, and the work was done."

"The history of the public schools of Oconee county during the last few years has been one of earnest endeavor and steady progress. While they are just beginning to awake, still there is much hope for the future from their recent achievements. Some of the things upon which such hopes are based are as follows: Local trustees are taking a greater interest in their schools as a direct result of a Trustees' Association, which I organized in the fall of 1909. Better teachers are being demanded and better salaries offered, although we are far below what we should be in this respect yet. It was my ambition, on taking charge of the office in January, 1909, to see that every white school in Oconee should run at least five months in every year. That ambition has been realized in many districts where they had only a two or three months' school when I took charge, but I regret to say that there are some that I have never reached. However, I have the pleasure to report that the average length of the

term for the county has been materially increased. "When I came into office, 20 districts out of 77 were levying extra taxes, and during my term I have seen 27 others vote on the extra tax, and 7 of those that already had it have increased. Only one district that ever voted on the question voted it down."

The results of this work of consolidation are to a great extent with the future, it is true, but the beginning that has been made is little short of marvellous. Wherever consolidated work has been established there is marked improvement in the community itself, in the people of the community, and in the very atmosphere and surroundings.

There is prejudice against the plan of consolidation in some quarters, but this will pass away as the great benefits of the rural high school are made clear by practical demonstration. Advancement in sections that have adopted the consolidation plan is apparent to even the most casual observer, and there should be no backward step taken. The plan has worked and is working so well where it has been tried that other schools will follow the lead of the more progressive communities, and the future holds the possibility for great work along this line.

We believe that the progressive citizens of the rural districts of this county will not be slow to seek the best and demand that they shall have nothing less than the best that lies within the range of possibility. The greatest achievements to-day in educational matters are being attained by concentration of effort through the medium of the consolidation of weak schools, (each by itself accomplishing little), into strong, compact units of the high school type. The principle is as sound as it is old: "In unity there is strength"—in consolidation there is efficiency.

WORK SYSTEMATICALLY.

For several years it has been a custom in Walhalla for a few young men to secure contributions about Christmas time for the purpose of giving a little pleasant Christmas surprise and pleasure to the poor of our town and community and to the unfortunates in the county almshouse and jail. It is very appropriate, and the efforts of the past have been most commendable.

We merely suggest that a little more system in the work, and earlier preliminary steps in the way of looking up the poor who can be helped, will be of material aid to those who usually take up this voluntary charitable work. Would it not be well for those who have the plans in charge this year to call upon the ladies for assistance? There are plenty who will gladly and willingly lend a hand to any such undertaking. The work will be larger and better for their assistance.

The Atlanta Journal last Friday issued a "Gas Edition." About the easiest day's work the Journal ever did, we opine.

W. J. Cochran, of Ashburn, Ga., is proving beyond cavil that, whether Tan Cleghorn is good for anything else or not, he makes an admirable target.

BULL MOOSE LEADERS MEET.

Munsey and Straus Declare Republicans Must Swallow Platform.

New York, Dec. 8.—Col. Roosevelt and 150 other Progressive party leaders and members left for Chicago to-day on a special train of ten cars, from the rear of which in electric letters was emblazoned "Bull Moose Special." They will attend a conference of the Progressive Party Tuesday and Wednesday.

The occasion of this mid-winter political activity is the proposed solidification of the new party and the making of plans for future campaigns. Members from other States are on the way to join in the Chicago conference.

Col. Roosevelt and his party were cheered by a small crowd as they left at 1 o'clock. Although the colonel had no comment to make upon the situation, several members of his party, particularly Oscar Straus and Frank A. Munsey, declared that if the Republican party hoped to rejuvenate itself it would have to be turning Progressive.

These sentiments are in reference to the decision of the Republican Governors' conference in Washington yesterday to await another year before taking steps to reorganize the party, with the hope expressed that Progressives would be brought back into the fold.

Mr. Munsey said those attempting this task "had a big job on their hands." He added that the only way to achieve the union was for the Republicans to accept the Progressive platform and policies and come into the party as formed. If they did this, he said, the two parties could be united.

Similar sentiments were expressed by several others of the party. More than a score of women were in the party which took the train here.

RULES FOR CHRISTMAS MAIL.

Do Your Part to Help Uncle Sam to Be Prompt.

Washington, Dec. 9.—To try and save the public from the annoyance and inconvenience of having Christmas letters and packages go astray in the mails, the post office department has issued a timely warning on the proper way to do up packages and what may and may not be put on letters.

Last year 37,000 parcels intended for Christmas gifts reached the dead letter office because of carelessness on the part of the senders. The senders of 3,700 packages could not be found, because they had failed to place their names and addresses on the package. Nearly 10,000 parcels were mailed with insufficient stamps attached, and the persons addressed were required to furnish the stamps or the matter was sent to the dead letter office, since the senders were unknown.

Customs declarations must accompany each package of merchandise destined for foreign countries. This is required under the universal parcel post agreement. But last year nearly 8,000 packages did not contain this declaration, and were not delivered. The address of the senders was not on the wrapper.

Carelessness in tying up packages resulted in 15,000 parcels of valuable matter becoming broken last Christmas, and the articles were found loose in the mails. That meant disappointment for 30,000 senders and might-have-been recipients.

Here are the suggestions which the department says will insure prompt dispatch and delivery of Christmas presents with but little delay, if they are observed:

- 1. Postage on all matter should be fully prepaid. Packages not fully prepaid will be held for postage.
- 2. All packages should be fully and plainly addressed, including street and number, or number of rural route, in order that there may be no delay in handling and delivering them.
- 3. The sender's name and address should be placed on the upper left-hand corner of the envelope or wrapper to insure return of mail if not delivered.
- 4. All mail matter should be securely packed and wrapped so as to bear transmission without breaking. Matter other than that of the first-class must be so wrapped that the contents of the package may be examined easily by postal officials. When not so wrapped, the matter will be charged with postage at the first-class rate.
- 5. Packages of third and fourth-class matter may bear, in addition to the names and addresses of the senders and addressees, a written designation of the contents, a simple inscription, not in the nature of personal correspondence, the words, "Merry Christmas," "Happy New Year," "With best wishes," and "Do not open until Christmas," or words to that effect.
- 6. Packages should be prepared, wrapped and addressed, as indicated above, before being presented for mailing, and should be deposited as soon as ready and as early in the day as possible, thus avoiding congestion at the post office and insuring prompt dispatch.
- 7. All valuable letters and parcels should be registered.
- 8. The special delivery of mail by messenger may be obtained by placing on any letter or package a special delivery stamp or ten cents in ordinary stamps, in addition to the amount of the required postage. When ordinary stamps are used, the words "Special Delivery" must be placed directly under, but not on, the stamps.
- 10. Registry stamps are not valid for the payment of postage, but only to cover the face of registered matter. When used to prepay ordinary postage the matter to which the registry stamps are affixed will be held for postage.

Bounty Land Locals.

Bounty Land, Dec. 9.—Special: Mr. and Mrs. Jay G. Gillison and little daughter Pauline were weekend visitors at the Gillison home. Mr. and Mrs. Bazil Wakefield and Mr. and Mrs. John F. Rogers left a few days ago for their respective homes, (Greensboro, Ga., and Abbeville, after spending a few days with Mrs. J. B. Pickett. Mrs. Wakefield was Miss Maggie Rogers before her marriage and is a half-sister of the late John B. Pickett.

We regret to learn that Mrs. Julia D. Shalkin has been quite ill for several days, but hope to hear of an early improvement in her condition.

B. B. Barrett, of Gainesville, Ga., is visiting among kindred at the homes of J. D. McMahan and J. L. Smith.

Mrs. R. H. Smithson, of Westminster, made a brief visit Sunday to her mother, Mrs. J. M. Gillison. Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Smith spent the week-end with his sister, Mrs. J. R. Heller, Fair Play.

Miss Myrtle Davis, of Anderson, spent Sunday night with her home-people here.

Misses Cary Doyle and Lara Perritt and Oscar Doyle attended a most delightful party given by Wilkes Denny at his home in Seneca Friday evening.

Mrs. Lizzie Hamilton, of Shiloh, and Rachael Robinson, of Greenville, recently visited relatives in the community.

John Hall made a brief visit to relatives at Chappells a few days ago. T. O. Berry spent a few days in Greenville last week.

M. M. Morris intends moving his family to Sandy Springs to-morrow. His friends will regret his departure.

Miss Adelaide Bulgin spent the week-end in Seneca as a guest of Mrs. B. A. Lowery.

Famous Stago Beauties

look with horror on skin eruptions, blotches, sores or pimples. They don't have them, nor will any one, who uses Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It glorifies the face. Eczema or salt rheum vanish before it. It cures sore lips, chapped hands, chilblains; heals burns, cuts and bruises. Unequaled for piles. Only 25c. at all druggists.

DR. W. D. CRUM IS DEAD.

Famous Charleston Negro Succumbs to Attack of African Fever.

Charleston, Dec. 9.—Dr. W. D. Crum, colored, died here Saturday from African fever, contracted in Liberia, where he had been sent as United States minister.

The death of Dr. Crum removes a figure about which a bitter political controversy was waged, a controversy which made of him for a time a figure of national importance. When, on April 1, 1903, he was appointed collector of the port of Charleston by President Roosevelt, a storm of opposition broke out, not only in this city, but all over the South. Senator Tillman and others made a long, hard fight against the confirmation of the appointment by the Senate, but their efforts were in vain. This fight was renewed in 1909, when President Roosevelt reappointed Crum to the office, Senator Tillman conducting a successful filibuster to prevent confirmation of the appointment. On February 27, 1909, Dr. Crum wrote to President Roosevelt resigning the position. The resignation took effect on March 4, the day on which President Roosevelt stepped out of office and was succeeded by William H. Taft.

It had been reported that President Taft would probably give Crum another position in the service of the government, and the rumor was confirmed when he was named by the President as United States minister to Liberia and consul general at Monrovia.

The Crum matter was the cause of intense bitterness between Senator Tillman and Roosevelt.

Items from Richland.

Richland, Dec. 9.—Special: Very little was done on the farm last week but rabbit hunting and going to town.

Miss Cornelia Foster returned Monday and Mrs. W. C. Foster returned Tuesday from Anderson, where they attended the Methodist Conference.

Miss Pauline Anderson returned to Richland Monday from Greenville, where she had been staying the past month for treatment. She hopes to be able to return to Winthrop after Christmas.

We are sorry to report that Mrs. M. J. McDonald has been very sick at her home in Richland the past week, but she is improving some now.

Hon. E. E. Verner spent several days last week visiting at Clemson College.

J. D. Isbell, of Walhalla, passed through the community Friday and spent the night with J. P. Stripling.

Mrs. M. C. McDonald was quite sick several days last week, but is able to be out again.

Miss Pearl Verner, of Greenville, is visiting homefolks here.

Hayden Coe spent the week-end with homefolks.

R. E. Johnson, of Easley, and Mr. Hudson, of Clemson College, spent Saturday and Sunday at the home of W. T. Hubbard.

J. O. Singly and Misses Cromer and Annie McMahan attended the meeting of the Teachers' Association at Walhalla Saturday.

You will find that druggists everywhere speak well of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. They know from long experience in the sale of it that in cases of coughs and colds it can always be depended upon, and that it is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by all dealers. adv.

Lower Division Program.

Following is the program of the lower division of the Beaverdam Association, which will meet with Earle's Grove Baptist church December 28th and 29th, at 10.30 o'clock: Devotional exercises at 10.30 o'clock, conducted by W. N. Bruce, (30 minutes allotted.)

11.00 o'clock—Discussion: The place of prayer in the Christian life, by Rev. A. P. Marett, of Westminster.

11.30 o'clock—What is the best plan for church work to-day? By Rev. H. C. Hester, of Greenville.

1.00 o'clock—How can we best instruct our members to be more prompt in paying our pastors? By M. N. Mitchell, Westminster.

12.30 o'clock—Adjournment for dinner.

2.00 o'clock—What should be the relation of every church member to the Sunday school? By Rev. L. D. Mitchell and Rev. W. J. Spearman.

Sunday at 11 o'clock, sermon by Rev. A. P. Marett. Program by Rev. A. P. Marett, W. H. Cole, W. N. Bruce.

Could Shout for Joy.

"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart," wrote C. B. Itader, of Lewisburg, W. Va., "for the wonderful double benefit I got from Electric Bitters, in curing me of both a severe case of stomach trouble and of rheumatism, from which I had been an almost helpless sufferer for ten years. It suited my case as though made just for me." For dyspepsia, indigestion, jaundice, and to rid the system of kidney poisons that cause rheumatism Electric Bitters have no equal. Try them. Every bottle is guaranteed to satisfy. Only 50c. at all druggists. adv.

Moved from the Death House.

(The State, Dec. 10.)

T. U. Vaughn, who was sentenced to death in Greenville county several weeks ago, has been removed from the death house at the State penitentiary following notice of appeal to the Supreme Court. He is occupying a cell in the main prison building. The appeal has not yet been filed with the Supreme Court. The cases from the Tenth Circuit will be taken up on February 5, when it is expected that the case of Vaughn will be argued. Vaughn was sentenced to be electrocuted on December 20. The appeal to the Supreme Court automatically says the execution.

One horsepower will operate 270,000,000 watches.

DOWN AND OUT

Down goes the price, and out go the Buggies and Wagons. We must, in the next 30 days, move a couple of car loads of Rock Hill, Norman and Indiana Buggies, and the famous and well known Geo. E. Nissen (Home-made) Wagons and White Hickory Wagons.

Buggies and Wagons in all sizes and description. We have Buggies with genuine Mohair Tops, Quarter Leather Tops, Rubber and Steel Tires, Surries, Business Wagons. We are simply overloaded and the prices are CUT to the quick.

A TREMENDOUS SAVING

Never before have you been able to buy Buggies and Wagons at the price we have figured on these. Remember, the Buggies and Wagons we have on hand are the best to be had—Vehicles with a Reputation. An iron-clad guarantee behind every one of them. It will pay you to come for miles to investigate. We are loaded up and have more vehicles bought and must raise money as well as make room. Our big house is crowded with other rare bargains in

Chattanooga Disc Plows and Repairs, Harness, Grain Drills, Stalk Cutters, Imperial Plows and Repairs, Hillside Plows, Harrows, Cultivators, Etc.

DON'T DELAY!

Get in line and make money. These Vehicles will not be here long at the price we have put on them.

DICKSON & MATHESON
Successors to T. M. LOWRY,
Westminster, S. C.

DECEMBER, 1912
BYRD & CROMER,
Seneca, S. C.
Appreciate very much the business given them in the past and ask that you do all you can for them in December, both in trade and payment on account. They need what you owe them and want to sell you what you need in their line of Merchandise.

News from Ebenezer.

Ebenezer, Dec. 9.—Special: School at this place is flourishing nicely with O. C. Lyles as principal and Misses Bessie Gaines and Lucile Hamilton, assistants.

Mrs. J. D. Wald has been seriously ill for several weeks. We are glad to know, however, that she is some better at this writing.

Alex Rowland, of Newberry, is spending a while with homefolks.

Miss Lella Abbott, of Newry, spent the week-end with her brother, Lee Abbott.

Rev. James Mason has just closed a series of meetings at this place. Bad weather prevented a large attendance, though the entire community seems to have been revived.

Mrs. Robert Taylor died at her home Friday morning after a lingering illness. She leaves her husband and one child to mourn her death. Had she lived until Sunday she would have been 20 years old. Her maiden name was Rowland. The remains were interred at Fairview cemetery after brief services conducted by Rev. D. P. Bearden. The deepest sympathy of the community is felt for the grief-stricken family.

Bride Sentenced to Prison.

Logansport, Ind., Dec. 6.—Mrs. Joseph Lang, the bride of one day who shot and killed Mrs. Mary Cople, to-day was sentenced to serve from two to fourteen years in the women's prison at Indianapolis and pay a fine of \$25. The woman pleaded guilty in the court yesterday.

Mrs. Lang said the Cople woman declared her "ugly" and that Lang could have done better in choosing a wife.

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS!

For Sale in Bulk:

My entire stock of Dry Goods, Clothing and Shoes.

When stock is closed out store room is for rent. Best stand for Dry Goods in Oconee County.

M. S. STRIBLING,
Westminster, S. C.

Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. Never fails. Buy it now. It may save life.