

REV. W. J. DIAZ TELLS OF HIS ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT IN CUBA.

But they could not send my telegram. Everybody was watched by the police. So when Dr. Porter came to see me after I was allowed to communicate with my friends, I gave him the telegram that finally came. When Dr. Porter finally came to the telegraph office with the message, however, they would not send it, because the operator said the Cincinnati or the Iowa would be down there in no time to fight it out for me. Dr. Porter was followed, the police trying to get the telegram. He happened to come up with Brother Bueno, the missionary at San Miguel, who gave him the message to be sent from Key West. When the message was ready to sail, Brother Porter went down to the dock, and the police thinking that he was trying to get the message on board arrested him. But Brother Bueno had it safely on his way. Brother Porter laughed and said to the police that in about two hours I was released and told to leave the island by the next steamer. I would not go without my family and leave my business affairs unsettled and told the police that they would have to carry me aboard if they wanted to make me go.

SOUTHERN SETTLERS. THE LAST DAY'S SESSION OF THE CONVENTION.

Resolutions Passed Declaring That the South Possessed Superior Advantages. Climatic, Agricultural and Mineral. SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., May 6.—The last day's session of the Southern States Settlers convention, here began at 10 o'clock this morning; most of it was devoted to speeches. Among the speakers were Gen. J. B. Lewis of Atlanta, permanent president of the convention, and who also presented the claims of Georgia to northern emigration. Among other speakers were J. J. Ward of Darlington, S. C.; J. P. Coffin of Florence, S. C.; J. L. Patterson, commissioner of agriculture, H. H. Battle, State chemist and J. A. Holmes, State geologist of North Carolina. Several State delegates met and elected vice presidents as follows: O. S. Hays, Staitham, Ga.; A. Jeffers, Norfolk, Va.; J. P. Coffin, Florence, S. C. The convention issued the following address to the public as a concise expression of the views of northern and foreign-born citizens of southern States concerning their respective sections.

AS TO STATE POLITICS. Governor Evans on the Coming State Convention.

COLUMBIA, S. C., May 6.—Governor Evans returned to the city yesterday from New York and Washington, where he has been for the past week on official business. He was in good health and spirits and talked pleasantly to a representative of The State on politics, State and national. On the table in his library lay a handsome gold-headed walking cane, with "John Gary Evans, April 24, 1836," engraved thereon. It was presented by an admirer of the Governor.

LIQUOR AND POLITICS. Dispensaries Must Not Mix the Two Things. The State Board of Control.

COLUMBIA, S. C., May 8.—The State board of control spent a greater part of yesterday in making the appointments of the county boards of control. It seems to be their desire to remove the dispensary as far from politics as possible. To this end the board passed an order that a man could not be a member of a county board of control or of a county dispensary who was a candidate for any office. After affixing the list of applicants the following were appointed as members of the different county boards:

CAROLINA AT CHICAGO. THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISCUSS THE OUTLOOK.

A Full Attendance and a Fuller Discussion in the Senate Chamber.—The Counties Assessed According to Taxable Property. COLUMBIA, S. C., May 7.—The convention of the county commissioners for the Chicago Southern States exposition was held yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock in the senate chamber of the State house.

The meeting was to decide on some plan to raise the \$10,000 needed for the assessment. The plan had been proposed, but it was left to the meeting to decide on such a plan as it thought best. The secretary, Mr. Aul of Newberry, called the roll of the county commissioners and the following were present:

- Abbeville, A. J. Sprois; Aiken, H. J. Ray; Anderson, R. S. Ligon; Barnwell, J. M.; Beaufort, W. H. Lockwood; Berkeley, J. B. Morrison; Charleston, G. H. Tucker; Chester, R. A. Love; Colleton, B. H. Pickett; Darlington, W. C. James; Edgefield, G. B. Lake; Fairfield, J. E. Coan; Georgetown, W. D. Morgan; Greenville, A. H. Dean; Horry, B. B. King; Lancaster, J. P. Gibson; Laurens, L. R. Sprague; Lexington, T. B. Shinn; Marlboro, T. B. Shinn; Newberry, E. H. Aul; Oconee, Z. W. Jordan; Orangeburg, B. H. Moss; Pickens, J. E. Boggs; Richland, W. McE. Sloan; Sumter, R. I. Manning; Union, J. A. Flant; Williamsburg, F. B. Grier; York, W. B. Moore.

A HOUSE BLOWN UP. Shocking Catastrophe in the City of Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, May 5.—What may prove to be the most disastrous calamity of the year occurred in this city last night, when a fire-story brick building, filled with people, completely collapsed and fell, a conglomerate mass of brick and shattered timbers, burying the unfortunate inmates beneath its ruins.

The building was situated on the east side of Walnut street, just south of 5th, the lower floor being occupied by Drach's saloon. The upper part was rented out to lodgers. People for several blocks around where the disaster occurred were started by a most terrific explosion about 7:45 o'clock. A fire alarm was instantly turned in, and in a few moments half the fire department of the city was upon the scene. The work of rescue was immediately begun, a force of men taking the front while a second corps went to the rear of the building, which opened into an alley. The first persons who appeared upon the scene entered the alley and came up to the rear of the building, where the piteous cries and moans of a female were the only evidence of life beneath the debris. These cries came from the cellar. It was utterly impossible that any person could have escaped. In addition to the victims who are buried beneath the building it is estimated that fully one hundred people have been more or less injured by the concussion, falling electric wires and fragments of shattered glass, stone and timber.

Twenty of those injured on the streets were taken into the Gibson House just across the way and their wounds dressed. Among these was Chief of Police Joseph Pugh, of Covington, Ky, who reports a most miraculous escape. He was just in the act of entering the saloon, in fact, one foot was upon the door sill when he was started by the crash of a burning electric wire overhead. He sprang backward, when almost simultaneously the explosion occurred and he felt the ground leave his feet. He was blown almost into the middle of the street.

Three persons whose names cannot be learned were injured slightly in a passing street car, and several ladies in another car were protected from the shock. A New York, Ky, car, which was near the scene, met with a remarkable experience. It was suddenly brought to a standstill by a fearful explosion which caused a mass of brick to fall from the ceiling of the car, which by some strange freak of the explosion had been blown through the falling debris and up into the air. A man named John Neibel, of this city, had just left the spot where it fell and walked back to the rear platform. No one was hurt.

A MARKED IMPROVEMENT. Weekly Bulletin of the State Weather Observer Issued Yesterday—The Rain Relieves the Situation Somewhat.

The following is the encouraging weekly bulletin of the condition of the weather and the crops of the State issued yesterday by State Weather Observer Bauer:

This bulletin covers the weather and crop conditions for the week ending Saturday, May 2, and in its preparation were used reports from one or more correspondents in each county of the State.

The past week was considerably cooler than the previous one, with a mean temperature about 2 degrees above the normal. The mean for the week was 69 degrees, that being the average of 40 stations reporting mean period; the normal for the same period is 73 degrees, and the highest mean was 73 degrees, and the lowest, 66 degrees, occurred at Little Mountain, Newberry county. The maximum temperature for the week was 90 degrees on May 1st, reported from Gillenville, Hampton county; the minimum was 48 on April 27th, reported from Lynch, Florence county, and 50 on the 29th, reported from Ellmore, Orangeburg county. The excess in temperature over the normal since March 1st was slightly increased, and now averages about 1.5 degrees per day.

The late drought was effectively relieved at most places during the week, but the showers were scattered and partial, so that there are still many localities without beneficial rains. But generally the rains were sufficient for the present needs of crops. In Richland, Newberry, York and portions of Sumter, Kershaw, Lancaster and Lexington little rain fell, and practically none along the southeastern coast. Elsewhere the showers were well distributed and of good amount. The following heavy rainfalls were reported: Society Hill, 1.60; Greenwood, 1.82; Camden, 1.27; Averaill, 1.53; Spartanburg, 1.04; Poverty Hill, 1.20; Santee, 1.21. Ten other stations reported measurements ranging from 0.50 to 1.00, and 26 reports of rain none to 0.50. The average of 43 rainfall reports for the week is 0.54, and the normal for the same period is approximately 0.70.

LOUISVILLE. May 6.—A sensational encounter took place on a crowded street car coming in from the suburbs early last evening.

One person was killed and one badly shot and many narrowly escaped. Henry Jones, a negro, was arrested by a private policeman, Charles Failes, and taken to jail, where he was held pending trial. Four bullets pierced the dress of Mrs. James B. Camp, wife of the manager of the Grand Opera house and one bullet went through the rim of Mrs. Camp's hat and tore a hole in the side of the car.

Mr. Tucker would not make a speech on Charleston's record, but he would say that his record spoke for itself and could not be impugned. Mr. Ray of Aiken said he had come here to get enthusiasm and not the blues. Aiken's amount was what her people had expected, but still they were going to try to raise it.

Finally, the assessments of the different counties were read and remarks made thereon by the representative of each county. They are as follows: Abbeville, \$405. It could probably be raised to \$500, said the commissioner. Aiken, \$349. "Yes; they would try it."

CORNA MARKED IMPROVEMENT. Cotton planting is practically finished; reports indicating that in a few counties from 5 to 10 per cent only remains to be planted.

Corn satisfactory advance during the week. It has received its first work generally, and in places its second. The later planting has not attained good stands yet, but will be materially helped in this respect by the late rains. Corn retains a good color, but cut worms are damaging the stands in a few counties. But worms were injuriously abundant in Lexington and Edgefield counties during the few cool nights. Much bottom land corn yet to plant. All reports on corn are favorable.

Cotton planting is practically finished; reports indicating that in a few counties from 5 to 10 per cent only remains to be planted. That which is yet to be planted is of good color, but later planting coming up irregularly stands, but during the improvement was noted in this respect. Chopping out has been actively begun. The not dry weather of the past two weeks affected cotton favorably, except that it retarded germination. Sea Island cotton has a good stand and color, but needs rain badly.

The falling tendency of grain was effectively checked by the rains. Oats have shown much improvement during the latter portion of the week, but it continues to be the opinion of most correspondents that oats cannot fully recover from the damaging effects of the late drought. Fall oats look more promising than spring sowing. Oats fruit prospects are promising. Oats fruits are dropping freely, while in other localities the prospects continue promising. Generally in the extreme eastern and extreme western counties the trees look most promising.