

OUR SCHOOLS.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION.

Figures Collected From the County Superintendents' Reports.

The annual report of Superintendent of Education Mayfield has been prepared and turned over to the public printer. The report gives in condensed form all the statistics of public education in the State and it is of special interest to the public in view of the increased school tax and the change from one system to another. In his report Mr. Mayfield says:

A special effort has been made to gather the data for a report which would show fully the school work done in the State during the year, and the condition of the schools at this time.

ENROLLMENT.
Table No. 1, shows the enrollment for the year to be as follows: White males 61,701, females 57,326, total 119,027; colored males 128,517, females 129,665, grand total 258,183. This is an increase over last year of:

White males 5,216, females 4,652; total 9,868; colored males 7,210, females 8,768, total 15,978; total increase of males 12,426, females 13,420, grand total 25,846. The enrollment of 258,183 is the largest in the history of the public schools of the State. The large increase is due in part, to the increase in population and, in part, to the increase in the length of the school session, the latter being the result of the increase in taxation for school purposes. There is still a large number of children who do not avail themselves of the educational advantages offered and all will never do so unless compelled by law.

EXPENDITURES.
The total expenditures in operating the schools for the year amount to \$697,068.06, an increase of \$124,430.82 over the amount spent last year. This increase is not altogether due to the increase in the length of school session, but is limited by law to eight months and all of the money for that year was not spent.

FURNITURE AND APPARATUS.
The reports show the school furniture and apparatus to be valued at \$84,177.73, an increase of \$9,524.40 over last year's valuation.

SCHOOLS.
One hundred and fifty-three school houses were built during the year at a total cost of \$23,728.63. This is the largest number of houses built in any one year, except the year 1895, in which 206 were built. There seems to be a gradual improvement in the class of houses erected, but there is still a need of more room for improvement along this line. The houses should be made more comfortable and attractive and should be supplied with more and better furniture and school apparatus.

There were used during the year for the white schools 2,423 houses, of which the State owns only 1,750 and 673 houses, leaving 673 houses used for white schools not owned by the State.

There were used for the colored schools 1,765 houses, of which the State owns only 972 valued at \$116,156.06, leaving 793 houses used for colored schools not owned by the State.

The total number of houses owned by the State is 2,722, valued at \$549,679.25, an average value of nearly \$200 each. It is reasonably certain that very many of the houses owned by the State are worth much less than \$200 each. The State should own the houses for the white schools, and it is hoped that this will be the case in the near future, so that each effort will be made during the next year.

TEACHERS.
The State board of education has been criticised for the high grade of questions submitted for the examination of applicants for teachers. The justice, or injustice, of these criticisms can be determined only by general results. I, therefore, call your special attention to table No. 10. Examination of this table will show that 777 first-grade white male teachers were employed during the year at an average monthly salary of \$33 each, an increase of 121 of this class of teachers over that of any previous year; 284 second grade white male teachers were employed at an average monthly salary of \$24.25 each, an increase of 15 in this class; 100 third grade white male teachers were employed at an average monthly salary of \$20.10 each, a decrease of 4 in this class; 1,284 second grade white females at an average monthly salary of \$24.70 each (the low salaries in a few counties reduced the average salary of this grade); an increase of 66 in this class; 375 second grade white females at an average monthly salary of \$23.96 each, an increase of 20 in this class; 139 third grade white females at an average monthly salary of \$23 each, an increase of 238 third-grade teachers.

Table No. 11 shows increases in the colored teaching force as follows: First Grade, males, 20, females 33; second grade, males, 52, females 118; third grade, males, (decreased) 17, females 40. There were a total of 369 first, 512 second and 627 third grade colored teachers employed during the year.

Statistics showing indicate that the education of the children of the State is placed in the hands of competent instructors, as a rule, and that the unqualified criticisms of the teachers of the public press, too often to be seen in the columns of the newspapers, and that the purpose of the State board has been to provide well qualified teachers for all of the public schools.

LENGTH OF SESSION.
I call attention to the tables showing the number of months the schools were in session in each of the counties during the year. Placing in brackets the counties in the order of the length of session, the longest first, we have the following:

Whites.	Colored.	Average.
Newberry.....	5.90	6.50
Abbeville.....	6.30	6.30
Greenlee.....	6.00	6.00
Sumter.....	5.50	5.40
York.....	6.00	6.00
Anderson.....	5.00	4.50

The United States commissioner of education reports the illiteracy of this State as behind even that of the States of other States or Territory except Louisiana. That the percentage of illiteracy in this State is great; cannot be disputed, and that there is a reasonable explanation for it is true, but it should be reported as being 45 per cent, and greater than that of any State which reports its illiteracy in an unfavorable position for the State.

SCHOOL CENTERS.
The law does not provide for the taking of a school census. The enrollment and average attendance of pupils attending school are reported to be reported. Each year's report shows a steady increase in the school census to be taken and reported each year. This would enable the school authorities to determine whether or not a greater percentage of our children are each year entering our schools.

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THE NORTH ATLANTIC STATES IS 6.57; OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES (20 WHICH GROUP SOUTH CAROLINA BELONGS) 28.23; OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL STATES 23.34; OF THE NORTH CENTRAL STATES 5.44; OF THE WESTERN STATES 11.01.

AMOUNT PAID PER CAPITA.
According to the United States commissioner of education's report, South Carolina pays only 42 cents per annum per capita of population, the smallest amount paid by any State or Territory in the Union; the six highest being Massachusetts, \$3.31; North Dakota, \$4.21; South Dakota, \$4.21; Colorado, \$4.49; Nevada, \$4.74; California, \$4.99. The same report also shows that South Carolina spends the least per capita for education in the Union. Her average expenditure per pupil was \$3.29. The average expenditures of the States and Territories per pupil were as follows:

South Carolina, \$3.29; North Carolina, \$3.40; Alabama, \$3.55; Georgia, \$3.62; Florida, \$3.78; Texas, \$3.79; Virginia, \$3.92; Oklahoma, \$4.41; Louisiana, \$4.43; Florida, \$4.10; Colorado, \$4.49; West Virginia, \$4.12; Kentucky, \$4.12; Missouri, \$4.13; Delaware, \$4.18; Maine, \$4.18; Washington, \$4.18; Maryland, \$4.19; Michigan, \$4.19; Kansas, \$4.19; Indiana, \$4.20; Oregon, \$4.20; Ohio, \$4.21; Nebraska, \$4.21; Iowa, \$4.21; Pennsylvania, \$4.24; Illinois, \$4.25; New Jersey, \$4.37; Wyoming, \$4.50; Connecticut, \$4.57; New York, \$2.65; District of Columbia, \$2.93; Arizona, \$3.91; Minnesota, \$3.97; North Dakota, \$3.13; Rhode Island, \$3.30; North Carolina, \$3.40; Massachusetts, \$3.31; California, \$4.99; Nevada, \$4.74; Colorado, \$4.49.

LOCAL TAX.
The general law under which a special tax may be levied needs to be amended. One meeting of the directors and one vote on the question is enough. The county auditor delivers his tax publications to the county treasurer during the month of July of each year. A special tax to be voted for June 30, to be put on the tax duplicate, usually arrangements are made during the summer for schools for the following year. The law should permit a tax voted during the summer to be placed on a special duplicate and the tax to be collected in the fall of that year, or it should permit such tax to go on the tax duplicate for the next year and the tax to be collected with the regular tax for that year by State tax. By making the changes here mentioned would be, most likely, a great increase in the number of school districts levying a special tax. There are now 88 districts levying a special tax.

STATE AID.
The State aid to schools must be derived from the income from the dispensary or from a State tax levied for school purposes. The State aid is intended by the constitution to be so distributed as to equalize all of the counties. No attempt to equalize the details of such a distribution could be safely made. A plain simple formula for the distribution to be made by the State board of education so as to equalize the counties would secure the end desired with the greatest facility and the least friction.

DISPENSARY FUND.
I am informed by the State board of control that they have paid into the State treasury the sum of \$50,000 for school purposes and expect to do so during January next, an additional sum of \$20,000. The State board of education will meet during the first week in January, and takes occasion in reference to this money. I suppose it will be distributed among the counties in accordance with the calculations of the State board of control. It is to be used for the \$3 per capita deficiency, his estimate being that the income from the dispensary this year would yield sum sufficient to raise, on proper distribution, each county to the \$3 per capita requirement, which rendered the levy of an extra tax by him unnecessary.

NORMAL TRAINING.
The Withrop Normal and Industrial College has all the students in attendance, the normal classes are full, and each year this institution, it is expected, will continue to prepare and send forth many young women specially trained for teaching.

The law has provided for a normal college in South Carolina, and two scholarships from each county have been created, open only to young men. The only value attached to these scholarships is a non-exaction of tuition and annual fees from the holders. The normal department of this college is well organized and doing splendid work. Since it is possible to induce others to take the normal course by increasing the number of scholarships, and since the college is now open to both men and women, it would be advisable to increase the number of normal scholarships in this institution and to open them to both men and women.

There are a number of high grade private colleges in this State, each of which has its friends, admirers and supporters, and many young men and women are being educated by these institutions. Some of these institutions, some of whom teach in our public schools, would require a full college diploma before a certificate to teach can be issued on a diploma. It would be well to recognize the diplomas of such of these colleges as may provide a normal course and confer the degree of normal education. By so doing, an inducement will be offered to these colleges to provide normal courses for those of their pupils who desire to teach. For this purpose the Mecklenburg school of Charleston should be included.

Too much cannot be done to promote teacher training, and the State board of education should be fully employed to do the cooperation, if possible, of all of these institutions along this line, with power to confer scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIPS.
There are many young men and women who complete with distinction the course of study in the graded and high schools and whose education is not completed in their own schools. If the State board of education were permitted to grant scholarships to the graduates of highest class standing in these schools, the number and value of the scholarships to be determined that occur, the tendency would be to improve the scholarship in these schools, to induce pupils to remain in school, to graduate, to improve same with a collegiate education who otherwise could not obtain it, and to in-

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Cash from insurance on barn.....	3,000.00
Tuition fees.....	810.00
Rents.....	232.50
Electric plant.....	140.83
Chemical laboratory.....	14.37
Beans and teamsters.....	72.07
Dairy.....	1,203.16
Meat.....	231.55
Farm products.....	399.79
Veterinary division.....	8.88
Police-master.....	26.00
Police division.....	75.85
Experimental station.....	30.15
Miscellaneous.....	10.40
Chloral errors.....	3.90
Private tax.....	50,000.00
Less expenses:	
Utilized department.....	6,547.71
and collection.....	10,000.00
R-fund state.....	1,995.00
Treasurer's error.....	18,540.71
Land.....	42,053.29
Total.....	\$58,067.62
To balance.....	\$3,774.56

EXPENSE ACCOUNT.
Salaries..... \$3,465.33
Mechanical department..... 3,792.40
Electric plant..... 2,750.90
Dairy..... 1,203.16
Agricultural department..... 6,835.75
Veterinary..... 8.88
Botanical..... 906.13
Convicts..... 1,089.44
Office..... 1,015.63
Travel..... 1,493.81
Refrigerator construction..... 7,144.81
Furniture..... 7,915.56
Heat and water..... 2,661.83
Military department..... 377.24
Library..... 981.41
Mathematical department..... 2,363.00
Dike..... 324.64
Geological division..... 374.89
Cacti labor..... 3,262.84
Fruit..... 673.66
Physical division..... 740.81
Insurance..... 1,979.76
Campus..... 124.17
Cacti expenses..... 200.00
Miscellaneous labor..... 871.61
Unclassified accounts..... 595.90
Balance..... 3,774.56
Total..... \$58,067.62

MORRELL FUND.
Balance on hand, 1896..... \$ 37.75
Annual cash interest..... 11,000.00
Available for year ending June 30..... 11,037.75
Disbursements—Agricultural salaries \$16,125; mechanical arts salaries, \$3,166.55; mechanic arts, apparatus, \$530; mechanic arts, material, \$1,009.33; English language, salaries, \$1,382.82; mathematics, salaries, \$1,690.69; physical science, apparatus, \$389.30; physical science, books, \$5.75; physical science, materials, \$145.49; economic science, salaries, \$950.00; total, \$10,914.90; balance, \$38.85.

TRUSTEES' REPORTS.
The report of President Harlow, which is a full and complete report, is full and explanatory of all matters of general interest. We do not deem it necessary to make any extended report. We ask a careful consideration of the report of the president and of the heads of the departments, and the secretary and treasurer, and of J. P. Smith, secretary of the trustees department.

At the annual meeting of the board of trustees in 1896, plan for the reorganization of the college, was adopted. This plan divides the college into five departments, with necessary subdivisions. It was not practicable at the time to change the system of bookkeeping, so as to show the cost of the departments and divisions separately, only the cost of the different departments. Hereafter, the cost of books will be kept so as to show an itemized statement of the expenses of each division and a total cost of each department, as well as an itemized statement of every other amount of money expended during the year. The itemized statement accompanying the treasurer's report, necessary for this year is not so prepared.

The treasurer's report shows the total amount expended by each department. Much of this was for plant and permanent improvements.

The health of the college is good. The outbreak of sickness last June was much regretted, but everything was done to prevent it. If possible, the college and all of its departments are now, with a few minor exceptions, practically equipped, at least for the present, but additions will have to be made from time to time as the knowledge of the sciences and the application to practical purposes increases.

The cost of maintaining an agricultural and mechanical college must not be compared with the cost of a literary college. The expense of such an institution is large, and the only way to determine whether the amount expended at Clemson is too large or too small is to compare it with the cost of a similar institution. Such a comparison will show that the cost at Clemson is not too large.

The trustees have been very successful in their efforts to secure the necessary funds for the college. The amount of money expended during the year was \$54,293.06, which is a very small amount for a college of this size.

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STATISTICS OF CRIME

IN SOUTH CAROLINA DURING THE PAST YEAR.

The Showing is Not Such a Bad One After All—A Decrease in Total Number of Criminal Cases Brought Before the Courts.

Attorney General Barber's report to the general assembly is now in the hands of the State printer and will be issued in a few days. In his report this year he has endeavored to give a consolidated form of the crime statistics of the State, comparisons by counties and years for a decade being made. The year which has just ended shows that there has been a considerable falling off in the total number of criminal cases. The only bad showing is 1897, in the number of homicides, which was 70, as compared with 65 in 1896. In summarizing the figures given in the complete tables Mr. Barber says in his report:

"There are three consolidated statements given in this report. 1st. Showing the number and character of criminal cases disposed of during the year 1897. 2nd. Showing the crimes by circuits and counties. 3rd. Showing the number of persons convicted in cases disposed of in the State during the last ten years, and the number each year.

"From the first statement it will appear that 2,485 criminal cases were disposed of from the 1st of January, 1897, to 1st January, 1898. During the 14 months from Nov. 1, 1895, to Jan. 1, 1897, there were 3,002 cases as reported to me, and as far as possible that there has been a decrease of 517 cases. But this is not the actual decrease, as the last consolidated statement was for 14 months instead of one year. An analysis of the statement for the year 1897 will show that there has been a decrease in the crimes of burglary, assault and battery, obtaining goods under false pretenses, forgery, highway robbery, riot and violations of the dispensary law, and an increase in those of larceny, murder, rape and resisting public officers.

"The per cent of convictions in all the cases disposed of is 87 and of the cases actually tried about 65. The per cent of convictions in homicide cases is about 47. In burglary cases 70, in larceny cases about 65, in assault and battery about 70, and in dispensary cases about 60 per cent.

"Of the convictions for the year 1897, 6 were sentenced to death, 28 to the penitentiary for life, 410 to terms in the penitentiary, and 447 to the jail and fine.

"During the year there were 20 homicides in criminal cases, some in all the circuits. There were 34 cases of rape disposed of, and of this number there were 10 no bills, 10 not guilty and 12 guilty. There were 25 cases of highway robbery, of which number there were 7 no bills, 2 not guilty and 16 guilty. There were 235 homicide cases, of which number there were 211 no bills, 120 not guilty and 74 guilty.

"The second statement shows that in Charleston county there were 537 criminal cases, the largest number in any county; Spartanburg is next with 142 cases, Greenville with 107, Orangeburg with 106, Florence 70, Darlington, Union 72, Chester and Chesterfield 68, and Cherokee 13. Three of the death sentences were in Newberry county, one in Beaufort, one in Darlington and one in Georgetown. There were no death sentences in two of the circuits, 225 and 223, and the smallest in the 3rd circuit 116. During the year 1897, the largest number was in the 1st circuit, 225, and the smallest in the 4th circuit 14.

"I made an effort to ascertain from the sheriffs of the State the number of homicides committed in each county, and the names and color of the parties killed and killed, but failed to get sufficient information to give in this report; the number of whites and colored killed, and the number of whites and colored committing the homicides. The reports of the sheriffs do not give this information. As to the cause of this increase in homicides in South Carolina it is very difficult to determine. There is no doubt but that a combination of causes produces this unfortunate condition.

The following is the statement of the crimes and of the trials in the different circuits:

First Circuit—Mistrials, 4; no bill and discontinued, 48; not guilty 57; guilty, 210; grand total, 698; jail or fine, 161; penitentiary for term, 145; penitentiary for life, 3; death sentence, 0.
Second Circuit—Mistrials, 6; no bill and discontinued, 107; not guilty, 45; guilty, 93; grand total, 245; jail or fine, 73; penitentiary for term, 45; penitentiary for life, 4; death sentence, 1.
Third Circuit—Mistrials, 4; no bill and discontinued, 47; not guilty, 23; guilty, 91; grand total, 171; jail or fine, 33; penitentiary for term, 65; penitentiary for life, 3; death sentence, 1.
Fourth Circuit—Mistrials, 1; no bill and discontinued, 150; not guilty, 33; guilty, 98; grand total, 252; jail or fine, 80; penitentiary for term, 15; penitentiary for life, 3; death sentence, 1.
Fifth Circuit—Mistrials, 1; no bill and discontinued, 58; not guilty, 58; guilty, 119; grand total, 235; jail or fine, 0; penitentiary for term, 10; penitentiary for life, 0; death sentence, 0.
Sixth Circuit—Mistrials, 0; no bill and discontinued, 51; not guilty, 63; guilty, 93; grand total, 212; jail or fine, 6; penitentiary for term, 35; penitentiary for life, 2; death sentence, 1.
Seventh Circuit—Mistrials, 1; no bill and discontinued, 133; not guilty, 49; guilty, 132; grand total, 315; jail or fine, 194; penitentiary for term, 21; penitentiary for life, 7; death sentence, 0.
Eighth Circuit—Mistrials, 2; no bill and discontinued, 105; not guilty, 107; guilty, 143; grand total, 255; jail or fine, 0; penitentiary for term, 35; penitentiary for life, 4; death sentence, 0.
Ninth Circuit—Mistrials, 20; no bill and discontinued, 1,058; not guilty, 434; guilty, 1,058; grand total, 2,544; jail or fine, 1,058; penitentiary for term, 1,058; penitentiary for life, 1,058; death sentence, 1,058.

A special from Bessemer, Ala., says: Tom Collins, of this city, shot and instantly killed D. L. Howell, of Browns, Ala., while the latter was in a cell in the city prison. Later in the afternoon Howell was arrested by Officer Wilson on a complaint by Mrs. Collins, wife of Tom Collins, who said that Howell had been following her and had threatened to shoot her. When Collins heard of the affair, he went to the city prison, gained admission and killed Howell in his cell, shooting him through the heart. Collins was arrested on the charge of murder.

A Good suggestion from the Greenville News: "An Irishman who was vainly trying to split a tree trunk for a hole to get a box of splinters from a great oak to splinters a few yards distant, remarked: 'Faith, I wish you'd try your hand on this!' It is suggested likewise to Mr. Joseph Leiter, of Chicago, who has successfully cornered the wheat market and run the price up, that he backfire five cents out of it.

On Christmas Eve, about 4 P. M., Mrs. Messrs. A. J. Johnson and Frank Brown were driving towards Bishopville, near the Ridge and Mr. Klug's lumber mill. Their horse took a jump and ran, throwing both men and Mrs. Johnson's head on the ground. Johnson's head was broken, killing him instantly.

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