The Manning Times.

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UGLY CHARGES.

Books of State House Officials Examined.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Numerous Irregularities and Discrepancies, Caused by Failure to Keep a Proper Set of Books in a Proper Way. Secretary of State Complains.

Senator T. B. Butler and Representatives Richards and Rainesford Tuesday submitted a report on the examination of the offices of the secretary of state, comptroller general and state treasurer. The report was ordered printed in the journal and is considered one of the most sensational yet filed.

The report says of some of the offices:

"That they have examined the book of accounts of the above named officers and find the offices of state treasurer, comptroller general and sinking fund correct, with proper vouchers, the offices and the books neatly and well kept, and the committee, with pleasure, commend the efficiency of the officers and assistants in these several departments."

The report then recommends that the comptroller general be supplied with file cases for the keeping of the records of the office.

The report on the secretary of state's office is in part as follows:

This office has not been included in the examination heretofore, but last year this additional duty was placed on this committee, and it has been an enormous, unpleasant and extremely difficult matter to ascertain the exact and true condition of the finances of this office—due to many reasons which we will attempt to show later.

When we first went to this office in April, 1904, we were informed that we could conclude our labors "in ten minutes" and were shown the bank books and a mere statement, of amounts, aggregate, received in that office, and amount paid state treasurer. On insisting that we came for a real examination, we were begged for time to prepare books, etc. However, your committee went to work but soon found, on account of the absence of books and in proper entries of cash received, wrong and improper entries made in the books furnished, which had been badly kept. Your committee feeling the need of a thorough examination adjourned, and secured the services of an account, Mr. J. C. Hollis, of Gaffney, S. C., and with his valuable assistance made up a book of every item we could find and was furnished by Mr. R. M. McCown, the assistant clerk, said book being now in the possession of your committee. After adjourning, and before our return with Mr. Hollis, many erasures and corrections were made on the books attempted to be kept. The only way we could do was to handle each declaration of charter, return, application for notary public—in fact, every paper during Mr. Gantt's administration. Seeing that considerable time would be consumed in this examination, we did not feel justified in going back of his term without express authority, so did not do so, but feel now that this should be done by the committee to be appointed.

In comparing the return of corporators to the charters that were recorded, we found some unrecorded and others erroneously recorded, such as where a charter had been granted in the sum of $15,000, same was recorded as having been issued in the sum of $50,000. This work we did not complete on account of a very damaging fire in the office where, principally, all records were kept, and since that time we have been unable to do any such work for the books were badly injured, hence, such examination was necessarily suspended.

In many cases we found where over collections had been made aggregating $367 55, ranging from 50 cents to $77 50. There was no evidence that these various items had been returned to the proper parties, but, on the contrary, the secretary of state informed us we "had nothing to do with these excess amounts as that was a matter between himself and the parties sending them." We do not agree to such a proposition. On the book which was supposed to be kept items were left off entirely. To illustrate: Camperdown mills, chartered April 30, 1904; charter fee $100, and others.

Improper amounts credited to state: Puckaber Bros., Charleston; charter fee $50; amount state credited with, $15, March 23, 1904. We feel compelled to condemn this carelessness in handling the people's money, and in not keeping proper entries of all moneys coming through this office, also the method that has prevailed in many instances where a credit system has been allowed. To give an instance, the Norris cotton mills, charter increased on April 10, 1903; charter fee, $50, amount received after charter issued $25, and the claim was made that the late Col. D. K. Norris contended that "the office already owed him $25." Either this money is lost to the state or is a loss to the secretary of state; at any rate, such practice should be discontinued. There are other instances. These items of over collections may have been returned, but we have no evidence of same. Your committee is cognizant of one instance where there has been a refund. The charter was granted on February 23, 1904, and refund made June 23, 1904, after these matters had been called to the attention of this office.

We regret to report that "all moneys" have not been paid over "quarterly" to the state treasurer as is required by law, same being held, in some instances, considerable time after the expiration of the several quarters.

Your committee begs to report that, as the report of receipts and disbursements will show, hereto appended, the secretary of state has deposited in bank several hundred dollars in excess of amounts shown by his books or evidenced by proper vouchers in his office, as having been collected for fees. In this amount, no doubt, is included some of these excess collections, sent by mistake by different parties throughout the state and which do not belong to the state, but should be refunded to the proper parties when the charters were issued.

We found by mere chance that one item of $120 50 for charter of the Union Ware House company of Columbia, chartered on the 15th day of January, 1902, during Mr. Cooper's administration, was presented for payment in June, 1904, and has not yet been turned over to the state treasurer, being, we are informed, now in the office of secretary of state. There may be other items of Mr. Gantt's predecessor still outstanding, but, as we stated, we did not go back that far.

A letter was then sent by Mr. D. H. Means to Chairman Butler of the committee stating that although the cash book of his office had been lost, he was ready to check up all of the accounts except the receipt book. A letter was accordingly sent Secretary Gantt asking for these books, but a reply was received stating that the fire which gutted the room made impossible for them to be found as yet, but that so far as he knew Mr. Mean's accounts were always accurate. The committee then concluded as follows:

In justice to Mr. Gantt, we beg to state he informed us the reason his books were in bad condition was due to the fact that his time was occupied securing valuable and necessary information for Senator Tillman to aid him in collecting certain funds from the national government, and we are satified he did good work.

The books and accounts since Mr. R. M. McCown has been acting as chief clerk have been kept in much better condition, and since our thorough examination in June it is a very easy matter to keep track of the funds and vouchers.

Too much care in keeping the books in this office cannot be spared, for, as will be seen by the following statement of receipts and disbursements during the years of 1903 and 1904, a large amount of money goes through this office:

Amount received from predecessor	$ 2,670 89
Deposited in banks	31,430 89
Total	
Total	$34,101 78
Paid state treasurer	30 302 89
Balance in bank	$ 3.799 89
Fees received in 1903	16.151 19
Fees to June 13, 1904	7,543 73
Fees from June 13th to Dec 13, 1904	7,165 58
From predecessor	2,670 89
Total	$33,531 39
Paid state treasurer	30,301 89
Books show balance	$ 3,229 50

Which shows a balance in banks of $570.49 over amount the books and vouchers of secretary of state show.

Under the present law charters are granted on payment of one mill on the dollar up to $100,000, and in a great many instances the state receives only fifty cents, and in some instances as low as five cents, and it costs the state as much to grant one of these small charters as it does one capitalized at $1,000,000, where the fee is $100. Therefore, we recommend that the law be changed by the secretary of state.

There are about eighteen or twenty books containing the records of corporations damaged by fire in this office, and while not destroyed, the bindings and edges have been destroyed and it is almost absolutely necessary that these books be transcribed. Therefore, we recommend that these records be put in better shape and condition for proper handling and preservation, and that a small appropriation be made to carry this into effect.

Respectfully submitted,
On part of the senate.
T. B. BUTLER.
On part of house of representatives.
J. G. RICHARDS JR.
T. H. RAINSFORD.

Dynamite Killed Three.

A Haughton, Mich., dispatch says three men are dead, seven injured and three are missing as the result of an explosion of 10,000 pounds of dynamite in No. 3 shaft, of the Kearsarge branch of the Osseola Consolidated mines Wednesday afternoon. No explanation can be given for the explosion. The dynamite was kept in a drift at the eighth level and was used by the men in blasting. The shaft is on fire and it is feared the three men missing are dead. The searching party was unable to get down further than the fifth level. The shafts are being sealed.

Found Dead.

A dispatch from Spartanburg says the body of an unknown negro was found near the side of the track which leads off from Wellford to Tucapau cotton mills Wednesday morning. It is believed that the negro froze to death during the night. He was seen about Wellford and was drinking freely. He evidently started for his home and being overcome from drink fell down in the sleet and froze to death.

Jumped to Death.

H. C. Swift, 75 years old, who came to Savannah from Stockton, Ga., eight months ago, jumped from a window of his home there Wednesday night and died Thursday. He had been suffering from grip for several years. Mr. Swift was a resident of New York, but came south seeking a warmer climate.

Pleaded Guilty.

In the court at Towanda, Pa., Wednesday Bigler Johnson pleaded guilty to the charge that he murdered his wife, Maggie B. Johnson and her niece, Annie Benjamin, ten years old, on September 18 last, and afterward burned their bodies. He is 26 years old and his wife was 40.

MAKES REPLY.

Mr. Gantt Promptly Defends Himself From the Charges

OF THE COMMITTEE.

Offers to Resign If His Statements Are Disproved. The Secretary Reviews the Report of the Committee and Denies Some of The Charges Made.

Secretory of State Gantt gave out the following, which has been sent to the general assembly:

Gentlemen of the General Assembly:

I beg to submit to you herewith a full report of the finances of the office of the secretary of state and a detailed itemized statement of all official receipts and disbursements during my entire term in office. I beg to inform you that I have this day placed in the hands of the State printer as a supplemental report to the general assembly a full, accurate and complete list of all persons or corporations who have paid any fees to the office, which in its every detail proves the statements handed you herewith to be correct.

In doing so I beg to make the following statement in reply to the report of the committee appointed to examine the books and accounts of my office:

I have been continuously since the appointment of the committee willing and anxious to make up and present this statement to them, having offered to do so open their first visit to the office, but was informed that they desired the papers of the office turned over to them without any checking, verification or statements in the condition in which they were at the time. Presuming the committee competent to come into the office, take the books and make up a correct statement of its affairs, the entire papers and books of the office were turned over to them; they were furnished a key, which the chairman retained for three months, and which was used to gain entry to the office when none of the clerks or employes thereof were present. This was permitted to allow the fullest and freest opportunity for full and comprehensive investigation of the office. During most of the time of the first investigation I was confined to my house by sickness. During the progress of this investigation reports were brought to me of statements by members of this committee of a shortage in this office. Upon the conclusion of the investigation, which was during the week prior to the filing of the pledges by candidates for State offices, I secured an opportunity to state to the committee the reports I had heard, and asked that they state to the public what they had found. In response to this request, the committee published a communication in which it was asserted that no books were kept, which was false, and that they had collected certain vouchers from which they had made up a set of books, which was equally untrue, as there is not now and never has been any "vouchers" to be collected, and the original declarations and returns of corporators could not be so designated, and principally from these I understood the committee had made its statements. As I was assured that the committee had found nothing which they especially criticised, I supposed the statement they had secured to be accurate. I had repeated assurances given me that nothing wrong was found. Consequently my astonishment at the remarkable statements made therein was as profound as was my surprise at the partial, incomplete and inaccurate statement of the financial affairs thereof.

When reduced to its logical conclusion and freed from the insinuation and innuendo in which it is clothed, the report charges that no accurate books are kept, or proper record of the receipts and disbursements of the office, and that the management of the office has been deficient. The only reply which it is in my power to make to this charge is the rendition at once of a full statement of every financial transaction of the office, properly balancing the cash found on hand during my term of office. I assert to be true that, though prepared upon less than 24 hours' notice, this statement is substantially accurate, and I will forth with and immediately resign as secretary of state if I cannot prove to the satisfaction of any competent and unprejudiced bookkeeper that it is a satisfactory statement of the condition of the office, and that the statement of the committee purporting to be such is not a true statement of its affairs and contains many errors.

REPLIES TO ASSERTIONS.

Replying to the several remarkable assertions of the committee, I wish to quote them as follows:

"When we went into the office we were informed that we could conclude our labors in 10 minutes." I deny absolutely and unequivocally that I made any statement at all in reference to the time it would require to make the investigation to any member of this committee.

"On insisting that we came for a real examination, we were begged for time to prepare books." I neither begged or cared for any time whatever; I suggested that I would like to check over the entries that had not been checked for possible errors; I suggested that the examination would be facilitated if the committee would permit me to make a complete statement of its affairs, showing proper balances. Both offers were declined, and evidently misconstrued. As a result of the refusal of the committee to accept any help or suggestion in their work, nothing whatever was accomplished during two entire weeks, and when Hollis, the expert, came everything that had been gone over was rechecked.

"Many erasures and corrections were made on the books."

Mr. McCown says that he made one or two corrections, with the knowledge and, he thought, permission of the committee.

"A charter has been granted in the sum of $1,500, same was recorded as having been issued in the sum of $50,000."

This has never been called to my attention, and I have no idea to what is referred. I would suggest that a record must have been accessible to them which showed the proper capital stock.

"In many cases we found where over collections had been made aggregating $367,55."

I beg to say that owing to the change in the law for recording certain papers, reducing the fee 50 cents, the reduction has been frequently overlooked by applicants for charters, in spite of the adoption of every means by the office to appraise the public of it. As every declaration on which it is paid is followed generally in two or three days with a return upon which a further fee is payable, it has been the practice of the office to deposit the additional 50 cents to the credit of the official account of the office, to be applied on the return fee. In some cases the return has been delayed, and in others it is never made. There is now unrefunded of these matters, the sum of $41 25, which is in bank to the credit of the State.

"Improper amount credited to the State: Puckhaber Bros., Charleston, S. C., charter fee $50; amount State credited with $15."

It was discovered by the committee that the office had failed to detect an error in computing the proper fee for the charter of this concern made by John C. Mehrtens, Esq., their attorney. Only $15 had been paid the office, as it was so entered. When the committee called attention to the error, the attorneys were wired and immediately remitted the balance of $35, which was entered on the books as soon as received and the matter explained to the committee.

"All moneys have not been turned over quarterly to the State treasurer."

It is true that I have directed that funds be not checked out of the bank until ample time has been allowed for the collection of all checks, ect., deposited. Sometimes a check which is received by the office is not paid when presented, and confusion in our accounts arises therefrom. For instance, on March 3rd, 1903, a check given by Thos. B. Butler upon the Carolina National bank for $3 was refused payment when presented, and the amount was not finally collected for about three months. It would have been inconvenient to have turned that over to the State treasurer, even though the office books showed that it was chargeable to us.

"We found by mere chance that one item of $102 50 for charter of the Union Warehouse company of Columbia, chartered on the 15th day of January, 1902, was presented for payment in June, 1904, and has not been yet turned over to the State treasurer."

It is true that I discovered that through some neglect there had been a failure to collect the fee for this charter. I demanded its payment and a check was given therefore, which was held for final determination as to its proper disposition. This check is properly accounted for.

"There were certain books we had in our possession last year concerning the period of Mr. Gantt's predecessor which we were informed were kept by the present secretary of state."

"The present secretary of state" wishes to say that he has never, except for a short period at the beginning of his own term, kept any of the cash accounts of the office. During Mr. Cooper's term these accounts were kept by Mr. D. H. Means and the record books during this period have never been in the personal custody of the present secretary of state.

AS TO FEES.

When fees were paid the office to him, they were turned over to Mr. Means, whose personal receipt was taken therefor. Prior to this time, receipts were taken, the same practice being in vogue. He regarded Mr. Means' letter as official notice to him of the loss of the books, from a subordinate to his superior officer.

The statement is made, however, that the report of the secretary of State and the original papers and records which were used by the committee to verify the liabilities during the present term, can be made to serve the same purpose even in the absence of this book, while deposit at the banks and payments to the State treasurer will show all disbursements.

Again reverting to the general features of this report I wish to say that I requested an opportunity to test the accuracy of the figures made up by the committee and to explain any cause for criticism that appeared to them, but was refused. Without having seen the totals arrived at, I challenge the accuracy even of the addition in the purported statement which was made up. It does seem that men who proclaim so loudly their jealousy of the people's money should at least put enough value upon the character and reputation of a man that they would at least refrain from imputing to him that which is discreditable until they had observed the caution of ascertaining facts to rest their assertion on, and when criticising the efficiency of another to be certain of their own.

Respectfully submitted,
T. L. GANNT,
Secretary of State.

Found With Throat Cut.

The little town of Pearson, Ga., on the Brunswick and Western railroad, was thrown into the wildest state of excitement Wednesday morning by the discovery of the mysterious murder of Mrs. Mary Smith, an aged white woman. Mrs. Smith resided on the outskirts of the town with her little ten-year-old grand-daughter. Wednesday morning the screams of the child attracted the attention of neighbors, and upon investigation the dead body of the woman was found in the house with her throat cut from ear to ear. The child could give no information about the killing. She had only discovered her grandmother's body a few moments before the neighbors arrived.

GOVERNMENT COTTON REPORT.

Number of Bales Ginned to January 16th, 1905.

A report issued by the census bureau Wednesday shows the quantity of cotton ginned from the growth of 1904 to January 16 to be 12,767,000, counting round as half bales. These consist of 12,524,777 square bales. 289,425 round bales and 98,110 sea island bales.

Counting the amount as running bales the total is 12 912,312. This was ginned by the 30,221 ginneries which were operated at some time this season prior to January 16. The statistics of the cotton ginned to the corresponding date of 1904 show a total of 9,859,277 bales, embracing 9,038,890 square bales and 7,407,480 round bales and 72,907 sea island bales and 30,171 active ginneries.

In the canvass this January 824 ginners have refused returns or failed to report and the quantities previously returned by them have been brought forward for this report without any addition. The total quantity of cotton thus brought forward is 327,243 running bales. A maximum estimate of the quantity ginned by these establishments between December 13 and January 16 is 32,724 running bales. This estimate of 32,724 bales is not included in the above totals. In this report no account has been taken of linters obtained by cotton seed oil mills from working cotton seed.

The final report of the season will be issued about March 25. The final report will distribute the crop by counties, aggregate upland and sea island cotton and give weights of bales.

In connection with the census director the report says that every complaint regarding the accuracy of the returns of individual ginners which has reached the census office has been carefully investigated and no material errors so far been found.

REPORT BY STATES.

The report by states and running bales follows:

States.	Bales.	Ginneries.
Alabama	1,422,426	3.902
Arkansas	826 528	2,440
Florida	81,855	279
Georgia	1,903 668	4,974
Indian Ter	463.549	509
Kentucky	1,882	5
Louisiana	1,005 328	2,223
Mississippi	1,576,853	4,055
Missouri	44,203	76
North Carolina	704 801	2,929
Oklahoma	323,727	298
South Carolina	1,144,514	3,244
Tennessee	298.132	758
Texas	3.098,908	4,403
Virginia	15.938	126

Tale of a Talking Tree.

Out on the farm of Will Albert, near Heath, county, Ky., the people are wrought up over the "talking tree" that has been there for some time. Enormous crowds continue to gather there almost every Sunday to hear the strange noises that come from the tree. The voice can be distinctly heard, and says. "There are treasures buried at my roots."

A party comprising the most trustworthy citizens of the county, visited the tree to make a thorough investigation for themselves as to the noises being heard. They listened patiently for several hours when a sudden crash, which has been given many times before the marvelous production of the human voice, came. The mystery yet remains unsolved, and so great has the number of people been who have gone there in the last several months that the tree is now dead, caused by the continuous tramping on the earth surrounding the tree.

The only theory that has been suggested is that a man was killed under the tree in 1862, and while many do not believe in "spirits" the facts are so plain and the voice can be so distinctly heard that they cannot dispute the fact. A family of people who lived there several years ago became so frightened at the voice that they sold their farm at a sacrifice, went West and are now living in Texas.

Bought by Mrs. Lander.

The property of the Williamston Female college was sold at public outcry Monday in Anderson. The buildings and grounds were bid in by Hon. Geo. E. Prince for Mrs. L. A. Lander for the sum of $6,550. Since the removal of the college to Greenwood the property has been of no material use to the institution and a sale was deemed most advisable. The grounds cover a little more than five acres, upon which is located the old college building, built under the direction of Dr. Lander, its founder. It is probable that the building will be converted into a hotel.

Express Office Closed.

A dispatch from North to The State says the sudden closing up of the office of the Southern Express company there has been the topic of much discussion. Numerous packages for people at that point have been pigeon holed elsewhere. It is learned on reliable authority that the railroad commission has given no authority for the closing of the office and an investigation has been started. It is understood that the company enters the plea of not being able to get an agent.

Killed by a Train.

Miss Magnolia Waters, a young lady of Westminster was run over and killed by the fast mail Monday. The deplorable accident happened at Harbins, about four miles south of that place. Miss Waters was 27 years old and was afflicted with deafness, which probably accounts for her not having heard the approaching train.

Cut Acreage and Hold Crop.

At a meeting of the Greenville County Cotton Growers' association held Monday the farmers present pledged themselves to decrease acreage 25 per cent., buy less fertilizer and to hold cotton on hand until paid 10 cents a pound.

Assigned to South Carolina.

Postoffice Inspector Gregory has been assigned to duty in the lower part of South Carolina, succeeding Inspector Marle, who has been called to Wasaington for service at that place

WILL MEET THEM.

President Roosevelt Names the Day When He Will See

COTTON GROWERS

Representatives, Who are Headed by Senator McLaurin as Chairman. About Fifty Southern Leading Mill Men Expected to Meet Committee.

President Roosevelt has appointed Monday, Feb. 20, at 12 o'clock, to meet the committee of 10 appointed by the New Orleans Cotton Growers' convention to confer with the president, secretary of agriculture and mill men with a view to making arrangements to enlarge America's cotton trade with other countries. The committee will also confer with the secretary of commerce and labor. About 50 leading mill men from every southern State are expected to meet the committee at the Raleigh hotel in Washington at 4 o'clock on the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 18. Senator McLaurin, the chairman of the special committee, gives out the following correspondence for publication:

Florence, Ala., Feb. 4, 1905.

To the Honorable Senators and Congressmen representing the Cotton Growing States in the Congress of the United States:

Gentlemen: I beg to call your attention to the following resolution adopted by the National Cotton Growers' association in convention assembled in New Orleans, Jan. 24th to 26th, 1905:

"Whereas, the present markets for American cotton products are not sufficient to dispose of the present crop; and

"Whereas, we believe the consumption of cotton can be greatly increased in the markets of the world; and

"Whereas, such increases will result in untold good to the cotton growing States, reducing the surplus, thereby creating a greater demand and necessarily higher prices for our cotton; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That a special committee be appointed by this convention the confer with the president of the United States, the secretary of agriculture and the manufacturers of cotton goods, to obtain such concerted action as will enlarge our trade in cotton products in foreign countries."

I beg further to call your attention to the fact that this was the most representatives body of men which has ever before been called together to discuss the great agricultural interests of the south.

You are therefore earnestly requested to give your active and hearty support to such measures as will effectuate the purposes embodied in these resolutions.

Most respectfully,
JOHN LOWNDES MCLAURIN,
Chairman of Special Committee on Foreign Trade, Cotton Growers' Convention.
ERISTER ASHCRAFT,
Secretary.

Florence, Ala., Feb. 6, 1905.

Hon. James Wilson, Secretary of Agricultre, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: I beg to make grateful acknowledgment of your favor of the 2d, and to thank you for your very courteous suggestion contained in some.

Acting on your advice. I have today directed a letter to Hon. Victor H. Metcalf, asking his co-operation in our effort to enlarge our foreign markets.

It is a great pleasure to note your hearty approval of this movement, and I feel sure that we will receive wise and valuable suggestions from you when our committee visists Washington on February 20th.

Thanking you for the interest you have shown in this matter, I have the honor to be

Most respectfully yours,
ERISTER ASHCRAFT.
Secretary of Special Committee on Foreign Trade, Cotton Growers' Convention.

Washington, Feb 2, 1905.

Mr. Erister Ashcraft, Florence, Alabama.

Dear Sir: I have your letter of January 28th, asking whether it will be agreeable to me to co-operate with the committee appointed by the cotton growers' convention recently held at New Orleans for the purpose of obtaining concerted action looking toward an extension of our foreign markets for cotton products.

I entirely approve of this movement. It is legitimate and wise, and anything this department can do to help will be very cheerfully done, but permit me to call your attention to the fact that congress has created a new department, that of commerce and labor, one of the objects to do this very kind of work. I think it would not be wise for you and your associates to ignore that department, and I advise you to get into communication with the secretary of commerce and labor, Hon. Victor H. Metcalf, and solicit his co-operation in your enterprise. Of course I shall be pleased to meet your committee at any time, but I advise you to call also upon the secretary of commerce and labor. In fact, I advise you to do that first.

Very truly yours,
JAMES WILSON,
Secretary.

Florence, Ala., Feb. 6, 1905.

Hon. Victor H. Metcalf, Secretary of Commerce and Labor, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the cotton growers' convention in New Orleans, January 26th, a special committee, of which ex-Senator Jno. Lowndes McLaurin of South Carolina is chairman, will visit Washington on February 20th, to take up the special work called for by the resolution looking toward the enlargement of foreign markets for cotton products.

I trust it will be convenient for you to see the committee, and that they may have your co-operation in this movement.

Hoping to have from you a favorable reply, I have the honor to be,

Obediently yours,
ERISTER ASHCRAFT.
Secretary Special Committee on Foreign Trade, Cotton Growers' Convention.

STARVED TO DEATH.

How a Negro Escaped Trial in Court at Columbia.

Was Wanted for Shooting at a Police Officer, But Preferred to Starve to Death.

The Record says word was received in Columbia one day last week that Sam Harris, the negro who is wanted in Columbia for attempted assault and battery, and who was caught in Savannah some time ago, will not be be returned to the city. The reason is plain enough. Harris has starved himself to death in the Savannah jail, ending one of the most remarkable criminals with which the police have had to deal.

Harris is a Columbia negro, and while not desperately wicked, was just bad enough to be continually in the hands of the police. About three years ago in a raid by the police he shot twice at one of the officers and dashed out of the house, which had been surrounded by the police. A number of shots were fired on both sides, but Harris escaped and nothing was heard of him until about ten days ago, when it was discovered that he was at work on the chaingang in Savanpah. The authorities there were notified and preparations made for his return, but the negro deliberately refused all food until he was so weak that it was necessary to send him to the hospital and there he died. The Savannah papers contain long accounts of the remarkable end of Harris, and the News has the following:

"One of the most remarkable cases of suicide known to the Savannah authorities was brought to light recently when Sam Harris, a negro prisoner, died at the county jail practically as the result of his self-imposed starvation.

Exhibiting the most wonderful will power in abstaining from partaking of food, the man slowly wasted away until he was past all medical aid.

"Harris' enforced starvation was the result of being told several days ago that as soon as he completed his sentence on the county chaingang he would be taken to Columbia, S. C., to answer the charge of shooting at a police sergeant some time previous to the crime for which he was committed last February.

"With the expiration of his sentence but ten days off he was rudely awakened from his dream of liberty about a week ago by the boss at the convict camp where he was confined. From that hour he grew morose and refused to eat. No manner of persuasion could induce him to partake of food enough to sustain him and slowly he wasted away.

"Harris was arrested by Patrolman R. B. Davis on Liberty and East Broad streets in January, 1904. He resisted while waiting for the patrol wagon, and shot the officer in the leg. He was rearrested and given twelve months on the chaingang, and with his time off for good behavior would have been a free man on February 15. About ten days ago the authorities here received a letter to hold Harris when he was released, that he was wanted at Columbia for shooting at a police sergeant while resisting arrest. The order was sent to the Pipe Maker's creek camp, where Harris was confined, and the unwelcome news was transmitted to Harris.

"After fasting for a week the man grew sick and his condition was such that he was ordered placed in the hospital ward at the jail, where he remained until his death. The county physician said the case was the most remarkable he had ever attended."

A Gruesome Find.

A dispatch from Union to The State says a gruesome find was made at the Monarch cotton mills Wednesday afternoon when as the cotton was drawn through the long black suction pipe into the picker room, in the midst of which, as it fell out, was a long black withered finger. The missing member was apparently the third finger of the left hand and the nail still remained on it. Where the cotton the finger was found in came from of course cannot be ascertained, but it is thought it must have been here in Union county as Monarch mills is a heavy buyer of Union county raised cotton.

A Pair of Fools.

A dispatch from Dresden, Tenn., says young Willie McCaleb, 15 years old, and his former teacher, who is now his bride, though she is 30 years old, must go into exile as a result of their elopement. The indignant father of the lad has made this the condition upon which he will refrain from beginning proceedings against the woman on a charge of kidnaping his son. So the happy couple will take to Arkansas next week. Despite the sentence. neither shows the slightest regret. The bride says she would be happy in a desert with her youthful lover, while Willie adoringly declares he would follow the woman to the end of the earth.

Distressing Accident.

Mr. Charlie Livingston, a young man about 21 years old, while adjusting a belt at A. L. Otts' ginnery at Elloree, Taursday, was caught in the shafting and both arms and legs were broken. The body of the young man was wrapped around the shafting in a most torturing manner, mutilating the flesh of his legs and breast before assistance could reach him. Medical aid was quickly summoned and all that is possible is being done to save the young man. Mr. Livingtson is a clever and promising man and the unfortunate accident is greatly deplored there.

HANDS OFF

The Negro Question Says Republican Congressman Boutele.

WILL AID THE SOUTH

In Working Out the Great Race Problem that Confronts Her. He says Intelligent Smpathy from the North Is Necessary to Accomplish Great Work.

Representative Henry Sherman Boutelle, of Illinois, was the principal orator at the annual McKinley dinner of the West End Republican club at Delmonico'srecently. About 250 members and guests were present. Charles F. Bostwick, president of the club, was toastmaster, and with him at the guests' table were Gen. Stewart L. Woodford, Job E. Hedges, Representatives Henry S. Boutelle and James R. Mann, of Illinois; Herbert N. Parsons, William S. Bennett and William H. Douglass, Judges John Proctor Clarke and Edward McCall, and William Halpin, chairman of the Republican county committee.

"The South and the Republican Party" was the subject of Mr. Boutelle's address. He devoted the larger portion of his address to the discussion of the negro question, as regarding suffrage in the South. He said in part:

"A great and wonderful change has come over the South in the past twenty years—a change that can only be understood by contrasting the present situation in the Southern states with the conditions that existed during the ten years immediately following the civil war. No people were ever brought face to face with more utter desolation than that which confronted the men of the South on their return from Appomattox. It was not alone that they had lost the cause for which they had fought. Their whole social, industrial, and political fabric lay in ruins. Their task was to bring a new order out of chaos, and they have triumphed gloriously.

"And we of the North rejoice with them in their prosperity, for are they not our people, bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh?

"Betwren 1880 and 1900 the South's investment in agriculture increased 75 per cent., while that of the rest of the country increased 65 per cent. The value of farm properties in the South advanced from $2,300,000,000 to $4,000,000,000, and the annual value of farm products from $660,000,000 to $1,300,000,000. The railroad mileage has increased from 20,600 to 52,600 miles, and the value or exports has risen from $260,000,000 to $464,000,000.

"Factories are springing up all over the South, and North Carolina bids fair to rival Michigan in the output of furniture. In the manufacture of cotton goods the South has made rapid and surprising progress. Massachusetts still holds first place among the states in cotton manufacturing. South Carolina now comes second, and North Carolina third. The total number of spindles in the Southern states is now about 7,700,000 an increase of 5,000,000 since 1896.

"The breaking up of the great plantations has multiplied the number of towns and villages. The education of the blacks as well as the whites is receiving greater attention, libraries and colleges are increasing, and the whole South is reaping the fruits of the courage, patience and hope of the men of 1865.

"The answer to this question involves the whole Southern problem. But it is more than a Southern problem—it is a national problem. The present situation is due primarily to the presence in the South of two alien races, between whom there can be—there must be—no fusion.

"The leaders of Southern thought, at the close of the war, should have been allowed to retain their natural leadership over the ignorant whites and blacks. The fear of ignorant negro domination has persisted long after the danger of such domination has passed, working often an injury to the negro, and always a greater injury to the whites. We of the North have in years past made the solution of this problem more difficult for our Southern brethren. We now owe them generous sympathy and patient forbearance.

"There is something that the federal government can do to help the situation. The South needs men. Her inhabitants are only twenty-nine to the square mile, while in Ohio the density is 102. Government information should be sent out to the world regarding the resources, climate, soil of the South.

"In the work of solving this problem the South could have no firmer friend than President Roosevelt, for all that the South needs is a square deal, and no one knows better than the president that a square deal for the South means simply intelligent sympathy from Northern men, unprejudiced justice from the federal government."—Washington Post.

Sold Stamps At Half Price.

Postoffice Inspector E. J. Pulister had arrested in Spartanburg Wednesday afternoon a young white man, who appears to be a tramp. This man, who gives several names as his proper cognomen, was selling 2 cent postage stamps in lots of 75 or 100 at half price. He is in the station house and his case will be investigated in United States Commissioner McGowan's court next Monday. He states that his home was in Augusta, Ga., and that his name is Harry E. Swain.

Charged With Being Fugitive.

Charles F. Taylor, being partner of Mrs. Alice Webb; Duke, has been arrested at his office at Chicago charged with being a fugitive from justice. He is alleged to have been implicated in a swindle at Nacogdoches, Texas, involving $3,000.