The Camden Chronicle

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

THOS J. KIRKLAND.
W. I. VILLEPIGUE.
Editors and Proprietors.

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No communication of a personal nature will be published in this paper, except as an advertisement, to be paid for.
All articles for publication must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer, in order to receive attention.

CAMDEN, S. C. MAR. 18TH, 1892.

EDITORIAL

COMMENTS AND CULLINGS.

"PUBLIC office is a public trust." What's the matter with that?

THE Citadel Academy was greatly damaged by fire last Monday. The loss however is covered by insurance.

WADE HAMPTON'S policy as outlined in his letter, though he may not have meant all he said, is little short of Independentism.

THE March-antis and the "Haskellites" have kissed and clasped hands. If the latter outnumber, the chances for another belt are glowing.

COL. Larry Gaunt is making things hum on the editorial sde of the *Register* which like a good horse has responded at once to a good rider.

THE issue between the Third Party and Democracy will be made this year. If the Democratic party is defeated in this campaign it will be broken to fragments.

THE hold heading of the Edgefield Advertiser is most welcome again among our exchanges. There is always something short, smart and decisive in the Advertiser.

CLEVELAND has written a letter to the effect that he is open to the nomination for President. The sentiments it expresses are not current in successful politics, and not likely to draw support. They are pitched in a key which appeal to but a small audience.

THE "Straightout" meeting at Greenville on Saturday was the only one yet held that has been well attended. Col. Jas. L. Orr addressed the meeting in a speech marked with venom against Tillman. We predict that Orr will be the suggestee of March Democracy. But stop! that will not do. He is a lawyer, and this is a "farmers' movement," you perceive. Perhaps they will put forward that great old Mississippi "planter" and just take charge anyhow.

Taxation.

A readable communication will be found in this issue on the question of equalizing taxation. The problem is an old and difficult one, and when a vigorous policy is pursued a storm is sure to follow. The suggestions contained in the article referred to we believe to be of value. The returns of property should be subject to the review of of boards of assessors who know the property of their district, and who should have some fixed average valuation for various classes of property for their guidance. Under our present system the whole responsibility of making returns rests upon the taxpayer and Auditor. It would certainly seem that a better plan could be invented.

Look After the Polls.

The following Act was passed at the last session of the Legislature, and if complied with, will add a considerable amount to the school fund of the different districts. School Trustees are urged to bestir themselves in the matter, for the benefit to be derived by the schools will greatly more than repay the trouble to be undergone.

SEC. 1. That the trustees of the several school districts in the County shall report to the County Auditor the names of all taxable polls in their respective districts, and said Auditor shall enter the same upon the tax duplicate to be furnished the County Treasurer. That said names so furnished shall be published annually in a newspaper published at the County seat, once a week for three consecutive weeks, and where there is no paper published at the County seat, then in some other paper having general circulation in the county.

SEC 2. That each County Treasurer, when he has finished the collection of taxes for his County, shall report to the Chairman of each Board of Public School Trustees the number of polls in the respective school districts who have paid said poll tax, and shall also report the same to the County School Commissioner.

SEC. 3. That any Auditor failing to comply with this Act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction before a Court of competent jurisdiction shall be fined in the sum of not more than one hundred dollars or be imprisoned for a term not to exceed thirty days.

That Third Party.

That condition of things has come about to which it was easy to foresee for some time. Not a few leaders of the Alliance are openly endeavoring to drag it bodily into the new party. The people's party, first organized at St. Louis has adopted all of the Alliance platform and a little more. Let our Southernors reflect that they demand an increase of the Pension burden. It is stated that the circulars sent South omit this important feature a contemptible trick, of itself enough to repel support.

The question before us now is plainly this. Shall we disband the Democratic party, abandon its conservative but well defined doctrines, and strike out on the wide sea of theory concocted by Donelly and Macune? Are we to swap the issues of economy, tariff reduction and low taxes, for the wild experiment of money based on crops stored in government warehouses and government ownership of railroads and telegraphs?

Far be it from us to deny honest belief in these new ideas to many of the best of our people. Intolerance of political opinion is passing away among us. But surely such sweeping and revolutionary doctrines will not be accepted hastily in our section.

☞ Any subscriber to THE CHRONICLE can secure the advantages of our remarkable combination offer by paying for a year's subscription in advance. In other words, pay for a year's subscription, and you get the Weekly Constitution for a year free.

The "Straightouts" are curious folks. They plead for "harmony" in one sentence, and in the next draw the sword and proclaim war on Tillman and his administration.

It is not easy to kill the influence of such a man as Grover Cleveland. In spite of the fact that New York has failed to back him there is even yet a living chance that he may be nominated at Chicago. His popularity in the West is great, according to reports, and the enmity of Tammany may be an element of strength in the convention.

OBITUARY.

Died at her late residence in East Kershaw, S. C., March 2nd 1892, Mrs. Mary Watkins, in the 74rd year of her age. Deceased was born in the Salem section of Lancaster County. Her parents removed to East Kershaw in 1836. Deceased was a daughter of Benjamin and Penelope Humphries, and was married to Wiley Watkins 44 years ago. She was a constant member of the M. E. Church 25 years, up to the time of her death. She died with La Grippe, but had been afflicted eleven years and could not leave her room, but she was a meek and most patient sufferer. With a full assurance of a better world she passed away, leaving 8 children, her husband and a host of other relatives and friends to mourn her death. But what is our loss is her eternal gain.

A FRIEND.

West Wateree News.

Messrs Editors—We notice in the papers letters from all parts of the state in which they say that Tillman is far ahead of any Candidate that can be brought out. We of this section were for Tillman in 1890 and are satisfied that he is a great deal stronger now than two years ago. The call of the "immortal thirteen" for the March Convention is ludicrous in the extreme. The Bible informs us that we "should not do evil that good may come of it" and the old adage says that "two wrongs does not make one right."

If it was wrong for Tillman, Irby, and Shell to call a Convention in March 1890 how can it be right for McCrady & Co to call a similar Convention in 1892, "Oh consistency thou art a jewel."

The leaders of the Farmers Movement were abused and hounded down and the epithets of demagogue were applied to them. What are we to call the leaders of the present movement, are they not demagogues do they not wish to get the machinery of the state govenment back into their hands, are they not doing all in their power against the present administration. Yet some of them claim they are in favor of the farmers movement, and how can that be when Gov Tillman is the "great" head and they are opposed to him, and now as far as the "Haskellites" "Straightout," "Independents" or whatever party you might call them is concerned is too dead to ever be resurected in South Carolina. We are Democrats thank God, and never expect to deviate from that principle, and whenever we desert the Democracy and "the white man's rule" of South Carolina may our right hand forget its cunning, and our tongue cleave to the roof of our mouths.

Gov Tillman's course is heartily indorsed in the Agricultural Hall case throughout our entire county, and Mr. Lyles is bitterly condemed. This has increased the governor's popularity four fold. We have heard him commended by some of his strongest opponents for the action he took in the matter.

Col. P. H. Nelson is strongly endorsed from our section as a suitable Candidate for re-election as solicitor from this district. Col. Nelson's record does not need any praise from us; he is well known throughout the entire district, and are satisfied that he will be re-elected.

It seems that a majority of our people are in favor of David B. Hill for President.

Subscriber.

THE INEQUALITY OF TAXES.

Government is said to be a necessary evil; and to keep up government, it is admitted by all reasonable persons that a tax must be paid by the governed for this purpose. In the payment of this tax it is intended to so assess it that none need be over burdened and yet none be allowed to escape without paying an equal portion, according to the true value of the property owned by each one. But here is the great trouble. While one person returns property at one hundred per cent of its value, his neighbor perhaps returns at only seventy-five per cent, and in many instances at not more than fifty per cent, and some even less.

Now this inequality in many instances no doubt is caused by an honest difference in the judgment of men; now this difference of judgment is no reason why A. should pay twice as much tax as B., when if their property were offered for sale to the highest bidder, it would bring equal amounts. It makes no difference whether property be returned at 50, 100 or 200 per cent of its value, so that it all be returned at the same rate. We have what is known as equalizing boards, but owing to the fact that they are required to equalize the value of property in many instances that they have never seen and know nothing of, their work is necessarily to great extent a failure. This failure is due to the fact that the territory which the board has under supervision is too large.

THE REMEDY SUGGESTED.

Divide each county into small school districts, and select from each district three suitable men to assess the property in their respective districts. Let there be in each county a county board composed of one member from each school district. Then last let there be a State board composed of one or more members from each county.

Let the State board meet and decide on a uniform rate of assessment. For instance divide land into a number of different grades, according to productiveness, location &c., and determine what each grade shall be assessed at. Then have a number of grades for different kinds of stock and seperate in some way as near as possible according to value, and then determine what each grade shall be assessed at. And so in reference to other kinds of property. Then let the proceedings of the State board be published. After the members have returned to their respective counties, let the county board be called together, and let the members who attended the State board explain as near as possible the grading of different kinds of property. After this let the school District boards meet, and after having the plan of the State board in reference to grades and valuation of property fully explained by the member who attended the county board, proceed to assess the property in their respective districts. By having small Districts, at least one member of the board would likely have a personal knowledge of all the property in the District.

While this plan that I have tried to outline may appear to be quite a complicated and expensive one, yet I think we can afford to try it or some better plan for the sake of getting our taxes equalized; for then they will cease to be a great degree to be burdensome to any.

Some may doubt that such inequality in the valuation of property really exists, but I have the opportunity of knowing whereof I speak, when I say that there is not only great inequality of tax on the property of individuals, but there is great inequality in the average of different counties. The following taken from the Comptroller-General's last report, speaks for itself on this subject:

Let's see how the value of horses compare in the different counties. The average returns of horses in the State is $60. We find seventeen counties return their horses below an average and eighteen return above an average. The seventeen returning horses below an average are as follows:

Akin,	$57.00
Anderson,	49.00
Berkeley,	58.00
Chesterfield,	51.00
Colleton,	54.00
Edgefield,	56.00
Greenville,	47.00
Lancaster,	57.00
Laurens,	49.00
Marlboro,	50.00
Newberry,	57.00
Oconee,	52.00
Pickens,	41.00
Richland,	56.00
Spartanburg,	41.00
Union,	51.00
York,	58.00

The eighteen counties returning their horses above an average are these, viz:

Abbeville,	$69.00.
Barnwell,	62.00.
Beaufort,	64.00.
Charleston,	79.00.
Chester,	61.00.
Clarendon,	68.00.
Darlington,	67.00.
Fairfield,	76.00.
Florence,	64.00.
Georgetown,	72.00.
Hampton,	76.00.
Horry,	70.00.
Kershaw,	70.00.
Lexington,	61.00.
Marion,	72.00.
Orangeburg,	64.00.
Sumter,	75.00.
Williamsburg,	63.00

It will be seen by the above that Charleston stands highest in the average value of its horses, while Pickens and Spartanburg stand lowest. Here we find a difference of $35 in average returns. But the explanation of this might be that Charleston county embraces the city of Charleston with its fine horses. Very well, but how will the great difference between the counties of Abbeville and Laurens be explained? They are adjoining counties, each with small towns and each having about the same amount of railroads. Yet we find the horses in Abbeville returned at an average of $69 while those of Laurens are only returned at an average of $49. Who will explained?

It will be seen that there is also a difference of $20 per head in the adjoining counties of Sumter and Richland But when we come nearer home we find that two of Kershaw's adjoining counties, Fairfield and Sumter, return their horses at an average of $6 more per head than we do; while our other four neighbors, Darlington, Richland, Lancaster and Chesterfield all average below Kershaw. But as great as the difference of the average returns of horses is in different counties, when we come to dogs, we find the difference still greater. The average returns for dogs in the State is a little over $5. Hampton county returns at an average of about $15 per head, while Greenville, Pickens and Anderson return at only a fraction above an average of $1 per head. Surely the dog population of these counties must be composed of "curs of low degree" indeed.

The average returns of pleasure carriages in the different counties varies from less than $20 in some counties to more than $40 in others.

The average returns of mules in the State is about $70, while Georgetown returns at $82 and Spartanburg at only $46 per head. These two cases represent the extremes. And so we find these great differences in the returned value of all kinds of property.

Will not some of our lawmakers take this matter under consideration and try to form some plan by which taxation can be made to bear more equally than it does at present.

J. M. W.

Tribute of Resdect.

At a regular meeting of the 3C's Alliance No. 280 the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, God in his allwise providence, has removed from our midst our beloved add highly esteemed brother, G. F. Braughton, therefore be it

RESOLVED 1st, That in the death of Brother Braughton our Alliance has lost a useful member and a good lecturer, the community a good neighbor, and the county a good citizen.

2nd That we tender our heartfelt sympathy to the family of our brother in their sorrow, and while we mourn the loss of our brother, we meekly submit to the will of our Heavenly Father who doeth all things well.

3rd. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our deceased brother, and entered upon our minute book and a copy be sent to the county papers and Cotton Plant for publication.

JOHN FALKENBERRY.
Pres. and Ch'm Com.

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Ten thousand dollars will be distributed this year by THE WEEKLY CONSTITUTION, published at Atlanta, Ga., among its subscribers.

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A Ten-Thousand-Dollar Distribution.

Five thousand dollars will be divided among its subscribers between now and July 1st, and $5,000 between then and the end of the year.

The first division will be based on the result of the nominating conventions of the two great parties in June, and the other on the result of the presidential election.

The national democratic convention meets at Chicago June 21st.

The national republican convention meet at Minneapolis June 7th.

Both will nominate a candidate for president and vice-president.

$2,500 for the First Prize.

Twenty-five hundred dollars in gold will be given by THE CONSTITUTION to the successful answers of the question.

Who will be the nominees of each party for president and vice-president.

Any person selecting the four names thus chosen will be entitled to the first prize of $2,500 cash, and if, by chance, more than one answers correctly, the prize will be divided accordingly.

$500 for a Second Prize.

Five hundred dollars in cash will be divided among those who guess correctly any three out of the four names to be thus chosen as party standard bearers, so that the guesser may prophesy wrong as to one of the four names, and by getting three correct will come in for this prize.

$2,000 More—250 Prize.

In addition to the above $5,000 in gold, $2,000 more will be distributed in 250 prizes, consisting of twenty-five gold watches and twenty-five silver watches, the retail value of which is $40 and $20, respectively, and 250 copies of WEBSTER'S MAMMOTH DICTIONARIES, original edition, fully illustrated and consisting of 1,500 pages.

The gold watches will be given to every hundred ballot of the 2,500 received, the silver watches to the next series of hundredth ballots, and after that every fiftieth ballot will receive one of the 250 Webster's mammoth dictionaries.

All ballots must be accompanied by one year's subscription to THE WEEKLY CONSTITUTION, at only $1, and must be written on a separate piece of paper from that containing order for subscription.

The winner of any of the 252 prizes above noted will be given a free pass at the next $5,000 distribution after July 1st. This costs you nothing and you may get $2,500 or $500 in gold. You will certainly receive the greatest weekly newspaper published in the South for one year and there will never be a year when a great newspaper will be more interesting than this one.

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NOTICE.

All persons having claims against the Estate of the late Tenah M. Shannon, deceased, will present the same duly attested to the undersigned at his place of business, Camden, S. C.

S. M. ROSENGERGER,
Administrator.

March 4-3t.

Notice of Examination.

Notice is hereby given that the first Semi-annual examination of applicants to teach in the public schools of Kershaw county, will be held at the Court House in Camden, S. C., on Friday the first day of April, 1892, beginning at 9 a. m., and closing at 6 p. m. All applicants will be examined upon the following branches, namely: orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, English grammer, history of the United States and of South Carolina, physiology, hygiene, and theory and practices of teaching.

All teachers whose certificates have expired, or who have been teaching under a license, will have to be re-examined.

J. M. WATTS,
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