

AT THE STATE PENITENTIARY.

Handsomeness Made Under Col. Neal's Management.

\$9,600 PAID SINKING FUND.

Board Will Recommend the Fearing Down of the Old Main Building and the Erection of a Modern One.

The annual report of the Superintendent of the State Penitentiary reflects the greatest credit upon the management of Col. W. A. Neal. The report shows that with cotton at 5 cents Col. Neal has been able to pay considerably over \$9,600 borrowed from the sinking fund for the purchase of the Reed farm, and turns over to the State Treasurer the handsome surplus of about \$10,000 making net earnings of the institution for the year about \$19,000.

Another thing that the report shows, indicating a remarkably fine sanitary condition, is that the death rate has been only 2 1/2 per cent for the year.

The board recommends the tearing down of the old main building in the yard and the erection of a modern prison structure in its stead. If this is done the authorities are confident that the death rate can be reduced below that of any prison in the United States.

A physician who has been going to the prison occasionally says that the sanitary condition was as good as that of any prison he had ever seen. The hospital service he considers better than that in most large cities. He found that each convict was clean and healthy in appearance and, inquiring as to the cause, ascertained that each man was provided with three suits of underclothing, three shirts, socks and drawers; that each day the men are given a bounteous vegetable dinner well cooked; that each day each man gets in the way of meat a half-pound of bacon and a pound of beef or three-quarters of a pound of pork, besides all the wholesome bread he can eat.

It may be mentioned also that the prison has had to pay in its expenses the expenses of guarding prisoners sent to Clemson, Winthrop and the hospital for the insane from time to time.

Successful Farming.

One of the most notable examples of successful farming in the State in the year that has just closed is that of Mr. W. Q. Hammond, reported by the Home Path Chronicle a few days ago. Mr. Hammond, it is stated, planted 110 acres of "bottom land," on Rocky River, in corn, and has harvested 7,400 bushels from the tract, or at the rate of nearly 68 bushels to the acre. The yield, he claims, would have been still larger, had it not been for the fact that his crop was raided and badly damaged by cut worms. There were several acres, as reported, which produced over 100 bushels each. Besides this enormous corn crop, however, Mr. Hammond made 350 bushels of cotton and 250 bushels of oats, and 100 bushels of last year's crop for sale. His cotton crop, he says, cost him \$6,000 in cash, and if sold at \$25 a bale, or 5 cents a pound, would leave him a net profit of \$2,500, and "old his corn." Or, if the corn were sold at the current local price, 50 cents a bushel, it would bring \$4,400, or nearly enough to pay the whole expense of making the cotton crop.

Will Have to Do Something.

Secretary of State Tompkins has received from the supervisors of registration in several counties the second books, which are copies of the registration lists on file in the several counties under the new registration law. As was the case with the first to be received—that upon which the assistant attorney general gave an opinion—none of them have been properly arranged. It seems that the supervisors everywhere have been unable to understand exactly how it was intended that the lists should be prepared. Mr. Tompkins thinks that the only way to get the books in such shape that they can be satisfactorily used will be for the Legislature to make an appropriation to have them copied and arranged alphabetically.—The State.

Father McManus Not Guilty.

Magistrate Rouse, of Charleston, has handed down his decision in the case of the State of South Carolina vs. Father F. J. McManus, charged with disturbing Divine worship. The case has attracted considerable attention since it was brought before the courts, for the reason that the affair is without precedent in South Carolina jurisprudence. Magistrate Rouse was unable to see where Father McManus was guilty of the charges preferred against him by his fellow priest, Father D. J. Quigley, and, after a careful consideration of the evidence adduced at the preliminary investigation of Father McManus, held several days ago, he dismissed the proceedings.

Buried With Military Honors.

Gen. Johnson Hagood's remains were taken from the county courthouse, in Barre, where it had lay in state, guarded by veterans of his command, on the 12th, by the Christian cemetery, in Camden, and conveyed to the Episcopal church, where the funeral services were performed by Bishop Cooper, and then it was taken to the Episcopal cemetery and buried with military honors.

Clayton College Inspected.

Dr. James E. Ford, of Florence, president of the State Board of Health, and Dr. K. W. Smith, of the Marine Hospital, have made a thorough investigation of the sanitary condition of Clayton College. The result of the investigation is as follows: The college is a very healthy one.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS.

The First Road Law.

Several days ago it was stated that the Good Roads Association would give out a series of articles on the question of good roads, so as to arouse interest in the work. The first of the series has been given to the press for publication by Chas. W. Wilson, secretary, and it gives a brief sketch of the history of road building from the earliest times, but we only give that part of it that relates to the road problem in the State in her early history. It follows:

"South Carolina took up the road problem very early in her history. On the 20th of May, 1682, the Colonial Assembly passed the first road law, entitled 'An Act for Highways.' In 1737 an Act was passed directing a road to be built from Charleston to the head of the path that leads from Dorchester to Capt. Izard's cow pen. In 1742 an Act was passed providing for a ferry across Santee river, and a road made in connection with it to facilitate the passage of travellers from Charleston to Williamsburg and other of the northwestern parts of this province. From 1708 to 1786 the following roads were provided for: From Eutaw Springs through Manchester, Camden and Lancaster C. H., from Fort Mott to Fishing Creek; from Society Hill to Bennettsville, Marion, Conwayboro and Georgetown, and from the same point to Darlington, Kingstree and Fort Mott; from Orangeburg to Ninety-Six, Abbeville and Pendleton; from Augusta to Edgemoor, Ninety-Six and Fish Dam, and from Friday's Ferry, on Congaree River, to Augusta.

"In 1788 a general road law was passed, requiring twelve days' work, or a commutation tax of \$2 per diem, and in 1789 the funds derived from the tax were appropriated to road improvement.

"These early roads were, as a general thing, located with remarkable skill, and well built, as the present condition of many of them will prove. Drayton's View of South Carolina, published in 1802, says: 'The roads in the State are well adapted to traveling and transportation, even to the mountains, and hence the wagons find no difficulty in coming from the upper counties, bringing with them the commodities of the distant region. Cross roads to and from each court house are made throughout the State, and a wagon road has lately been made from the north fork of Saluda river over the mountains to Knoxville, in the State of Tennessee, by which wagons have passed carrying loads of 2,500 pounds weight.' And at this time a carriage and four may be driven from any part of this State to the other, from the seashore to the mountains, without any other difficulty than such as naturally arise in long journeys.

"As a further proof of the high degree of efficiency of these old State roads the cost of transportation by wagons between Columbia and Charleston in 1891, as given by Mr. Robert Mills, was only 17-20-100 cents per ton per mile. Standard authorities give the cost at 18 cents per ton per mile on the very best earth roads, while the average cost in this State now is variously estimated at from 25 to 40 cents.

"Since the beginning of the railway era in the thirties the history of the public roads in this State has been entirely without interest, recording only a steady and unbroken decline. An effort was made in 1876, by the Legislature, to revive the subject, and a commission was appointed for that purpose. It is to be hoped that the present movement marks a turning point, and that with the beginning of the twentieth century an era of great activity in road-building will be commenced."

Incidental Fire at Acolu.

The Bishopville correspondent of the State says: At Acolu, postoffice, near this place, Mr. E. H. Hearon's barn and stables were burned on the 11th, together with 600 bushels of corn and a large quantity of pork and forage. He also lost five fine horses and mules, one fine milch cow and two two-horse wagons, making his total loss over \$2,000. This makes the second barn and stable burned in the county in four years, and the fourth stable that has been fired in a fourth of a mile of Acolu postoffice in the last two months. As a consequence the people of the community of Acolu are thoroughly aroused and determined to swindle and punish the fire fiend in their midst regardless of cost. If there ever was a case that demanded reward from the Governor this is one.

The Privilege Tax.

All the indications point to the fact that the farmers will not use as much fertilizers this year as last. This may mean a serious decrease in the revenue of Clemson college, which last year amounted to \$60,000, and may also mean that the farmers are not going to plant as much cotton as last year. Figures from the treasurers office are instructive. From December 10, 1896, to January 5, 1897, the amount paid on account of the privilege tax was \$4,652.50. From December 10, 1897, to January 6, 1898, the amount was \$2,307. This is a fall of more than half, and a gentleman who is familiar with such things says that he does not believe that the future will show any increase. Five-cent cotton will keep down the sales more than anything else.—The Register.

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BURGLARS IN A POSTOFFICE.

Mooresville, N. C., Office Safe Cracked and \$154 Stolen.

NO CLUE TO THE ROBBERY.

The Robbery is Supposed to Have Been Committed by Professional Safe-Crackers.

The postoffice at Mooresville, N. C., was robbed Wednesday night of last week. The back door of the small building in which the office is located was pried open with a crowbar, which had been obtained at the railroad station, a short distance from the office, and an entrance thus effected.

After the burglars entered they began operations at once on the safe. A hole twelve inches deep was bored through the top of the safe, and dynamite put therein. The safe was moved from the wall and the lighted. The door was blown completely from the hinges, several panes of glass in the front windows were knocked out, and pictures thrown from the wall. Although the robbery was committed in the heart of the town, within a stone's throw of the Johnson Hotel, only a few heard the explosion, and those that did not think there was anything wrong. The burglars got away with about \$154 in money and stamps. Daylight disclosed the robbery, and threw the town into a state of excitement. Mr. Robt. S. Templeton is postmaster at Mooresville. As soon as he learned of the robbery—about 6 o'clock—he wired Postmaster Mullen at Charlotte asking for instructions as to what course to pursue. Mr. Mullen wired him to notify the department at Washington at once.

The mayor of Mooresville also telegraphed to Chief Orr for bloodhounds, but none could be gotten. The bounds at the convict camp are not sufficiently trained to be put on the scent. The robbery is supposed to have been committed by professional safe-crackers.—Charlotte (N. C.) Observer.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Governor Black's Suggestions as to the Labor Problem.

The Legislature of the State of New York met and organized on the 5th. The Senate, with a membership of 50, has a Republican majority of 20. The assembly, with 150 members on the roll, is Republican by 8. In both houses the Republican caucus nominees were elected without any unusual incident. The speaker of the assembly is J. M. E. O'Grady, who presided during the session of 1897.

In his message to the legislature Governor Black made three suggestions in connection with the labor problem:

- 1. That immigration be checked.
2. That a fair rate of wages be paid laborers.
3. That in opposing strikes by armed men some method should be adopted which would not at first discharge of firearms produce those fatal, tragic results which have caused a recent event to be universally deplored.

MEMPHIS GOES INDEPENDENT.

The Entire Democratic Ticket Defeated by a Small Majority. Jas. J. Williams, Independent Dem. of Memphis, Tenn., has been elected mayor over Hon. Lucas Clapp, the present incumbent, by a majority of about 500 votes. The entire independent ticket was also carried by reduced majorities. The campaign has been an exciting one and both sides claimed the victory up to the last hour. The election was quiet and orderly, and a heavy vote was polled.

Hanna Has Gained Two Votes.

A special from Columbus, O., of the 6th, says: Conservative estimates tonight place the legislative vote at 75 to 70 against Hanna. The workers of the Senator claim 71 votes, and assurances of the two necessary additional votes, and possibly four more. The opposition insists that Hanna will never have 70 votes on joint ballot, and that they have gained two votes.

Disastrous Nitro-Glycerine Explosion.

An explosion of 1,500 quarts of nitro-glycerine near Booth, an oil town a few miles east of Toledo, O., killed an oil well shooter named Stephen Wilson, and wiped out of existence a team of horses and wagon. A piece of Wilson's flesh and the head of one horse was all that was found. Considerable damage was done to property in the vicinity, but no one else was injured.

A Crazy Man's Awful Deed.

A Bristol, Tenn., special to the Nashville (Tenn.) Banner, says: 'In a fit of insanity, Alexander Carter, a white man, killed his wife, and a 13-year-old daughter, Montie, while they slept, and then shot and killed himself. Carter beheaded his wife and daughter with an axe. He is said to have been mentally unbalanced for some time.'

Another Express Robbery.

The American Express Company, at New York, has been robbed of \$10,000, and Chief Inspector Fr. arrested a man who is reported to have been in the vicinity of the robbery.

Smallpox in South Carolina.

The number of cases of smallpox at Greenville, S. C., has increased to twenty. There are at this time eighteen cases in the post office. A woman here and the disease have been discharged. A case is also reported to have been in Spartanburg. The case at Greenville is now reported by the State smallpox commission to be in the latter county.

X-RAYS SAVE LIFE.

The First Use of the Roentgen Rays in Surgery in the South.

About eight weeks ago the 5-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Will E. Harris, of Harrisburg, N. C., swallowed a brass thimble—child's size—and the sharp of a tailor's thimble, open and sharp at both ends, which caused the child great agony, and it had wasted away until it was a mere skeleton. The parents had Dr. Henry Louis Smith, of Davidson College, N. C., to apply the X-ray, which resulted in locating the thimble. A consultation was held and it was decided to take the child to the Charlotte Medical and Surgical Institute, Charlotte, N. C., which was done at once, and on the 8th Dr. Smith made the application of the Roentgen rays to the body at the hospital. The thimble was not removed as the rays easily penetrate any number of cloth. The fluoroscope revealed the object plainly, and all the physicians present examined the body and agreed as to the location of the thimble. The thimble was found to be located to the left of the backbone, and at the bifurcation the trochlea, about three inches below what is known as the 'Adam's apple' in the throat. Dr. J. P. McCombs, R. L. Gibbon, C. A. Misenheimer, W. H. Wakefield, J. C. Irwin, of Charlotte; Dr. S. M. Hendron, of Croft; Dr. J. C. Black, of Harrisburg; Dr. Henry Louis Smith, of Davidson; Rev. J. W. Stag and others were present when the Roentgen rays were turned on the body.

Dr. A. Misenheimer handled the surgeon's knife and he was assisted in the operation by Dr. R. L. Gibbon and Dr. Irwin. The first stroke of the knife struck the thimble, and it could almost be touched by the finger. But it had been there for eight weeks and the flesh had grown around the edge and held it firmly in place. The surgeon worked some minutes before the thimble could be dislodged, and then it had to be turned completely around and drawn out the large end foremost. The operation completed in an hour and a half. The child rallied in a short while and asked for some water. She seemed greatly relieved and not many minutes later wanted her dinner brought to her. She is resting easy and unless some unforeseen relapse occurs will soon completely.

THE STATE OF TRADE.

The Year Opens With Quiet Confidence in All Branches of Business.

Bradstreet's review of the state of trade for the past week is as follows: The year opens with a quiet confidence pervading nearly all of the branches of business. Encouraging activity in the iron trade, resumption of work by many thousands of industrial employes in the Western glass industry, largely owing to the volume of business failures as compared with corresponding periods in preceding years, and the general outlook is certainly not inferior to any previous year in this time.

The distribution of goods has been rather slow pending stock-taking and the return of seamen to the field. While the volume of distributive business is no longer, the industrial activity is a special feature, unconfined to any one section, but especially notable in the West.

Resumption of work after the holidays has been general and encouraging in that section.

Autumn weather in the Northwest checks distribution, but collections are prompt.

Sales of Southern iron large. The Louisiana sugar crop returns are very satisfactory.

Nine-tenths of the Florida orange crop was gathered before the last freeze. Cotton is steady on good export demand.

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ASSIGNMENTS IN VIRGINIA.

Law to Prevent Preferring Wives or Others to Detriment of Creditors.

In the Virginia Legislature the House bill providing for the listing of property for taxation by the commissaries of the revenue of all bonds, stocks and other evidences of indebtedness before they can be collected by legal process, has passed the Senate. Mr. Athaworth, of Bath, offered a bill providing that a lien given by any person or firm to prefer one or more creditors shall insure to all. The bill provides in detail that if any person, firm or corporation, creates any lien or encumbrance on his or their property or estate, for the purpose of giving a preference to one or more creditors of such person or firm, over any other creditor or creditors, except to secure a debt contracted, or money borrowed at the time of the creation of the lien or encumbrance, the same shall extend to the benefit ratably of all the creditors of such person or firm existing at the time such lien or encumbrance was created.

The bill is to go in force on July 1st.

It seeks to prevent the giving of a preferred claim by parties about to make an assignment to their wives or others, to the detriment of the remaining creditors.

A FIGHT IN COURT.

Between the Judge on the Bench and a Lawyer.

The court room of the Lassen (Cal.) county superior court was the scene of an extraordinary altercation between a judge on the bench and an attorney at the bar. For some time relations have been strained between Superior Court Judge E. A. Kelly and Attorney F. V. Spencer. Spencer took strong exception to a ruling by the court. Several ironical remarks passed, and then Judge Kelly fined Spencer \$50 for contempt. Spencer defied the court to his face, and the court retorted with the statement that Spencer was a falsifier. Judge Kelly followed it up by leaving the bench and striking Spencer. Spencer attempted to strike back, but Deputy Sheriff Martin interfered and the judge returned to his seat on the bench. Spencer stood at the bar of the court applying to the judge offensive epithets. The court then ordered the deputy sheriff to remove Attorney Spencer, but afterwards modified the instructions and allowed Spencer to return.

A FAMILY MURDERED.

An Unsuccessful Attempt Made to Burn the House and the Bodies.

A special from Worcester, Mass., says: Francis D. Newton, a prosperous farmer of Brookfield, his wife, Sarah, and their 10-year-old adopted daughter, Ethel, were found murdered in their beds. The crime was discovered by neighbors whose curiosity was aroused by the leaving of the unfed cattle. The three had been killed with an axe. A hired man who has been employed by Newton, is missing, and the authorities are making a search for him. He was known only by the name of Paul. Newton was 45 years of age and his wife was three years younger. An attempt had been made to conceal the crime by setting fire to the house. Kerosene had been spilled on the floor of the woodshed and a lamp so placed as to set fire to the wood. One stick was burned through, but for some unaccountable reason a blaze was averted. Robbery is supposed to have been the motive of the murder.

ROW IN AUGUSTA'S COUNCIL.

Fight Between an Alderman and the Fire Chief.

At the session of the Augusta, Ga., city council, on the 8th for the election of city officers for the ensuing term, the fight between the Walsh and Kerfactions was resumed with all its pugilistic features. The Kerrites have a majority of five and proceeded to amputate the heads of those officers who supported ex-Senator Walsh in the municipal campaign. When the fire department was reached the premier, chief Ronette was necessary, and pending his arrival a recess was taken. During this recess, County Jailor Collins and Councilman Lougee became involved in a difficulty. Lougee attempted to strike Collins, who landed a blow on Lougee's jaw, Lougee reached for his gun, but peace-makers interfered and quiet was restored. Feeling is running high among the citizens, and the action of the Kerrites is denounced on all sides.

Money to Succeed George.

The Democratic caucus of the Mississippi Legislature has nominated Hon. H. D. Money as United States Senator to succeed the late Senator George.

TORNADO IN KENTUCKY.

Great Damage Done in the Town of Morganfield.

A tornado struck the town of Morganfield, Ky., unroofing the old Methodist church and parsonage, totally demolishing the large