COUNTRY NEWS LETTERS

SOME INTERESTING HAPPENINGS IN VARIOUS SECTIONS.

News Items Gathered All Around the County and Elsewhere. Ehrhardt Etchings.

Ehrhardt, April 4.—Last Saturday morning when the merchants came out to open their stores they found a reminder that it was the first of April-"April fool." Signs were changed, push carts, banana drums, boxes, fruit stands, old buggies, etc., were piled at the front door. It required the youngsters some time to do this "April fool's" work Friday night but gave them a good laugh and the guilty parties could easily be found by the smile they wore Saturday morning.

Mrs. L. P. McMillan, of Bamberg, visited her mother, Mrs. F. G. Lemacks, last Wednesday.

Mrs. J. M. Smith, of Bamberg, was guest at her friend's, Mrs. J. L Copeland's, last Wednesday.

A game of ball is scheduled for our diamond Thursday afternoon with the Carlisle school team. This game will end the series of the three games that they were to play; also will decide the winner of the best "two out of three," as so far each has won a game.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie King, of Rowesville, passed through town last Sunday afternoon in their car, en route home from a visit in Colleton county. Stopping only a few minutes with relatives, they pursued their

Mr. T. W. Davis and son, Willie, left Sunday for their post of duty with the DuPont Powder company, at City Point, Va. It is remembered that they were called home a few days ago on account of Mrs. Davis being very ill. They have the service of a trained nurse.

Mr. Raymond Bolen, of Bamberg visited in town Sunday. No trouble -just a little feminine attraction.

Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Copeland, Mrs J. P. Griffin, Mr. Chas. Henery, Dr J. J. Farrell, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Chassereau, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Dannelly and Prof. S. C. Paysinger, motored up to Augusta, Ga., Sunday to view the ruined city. They announce that the place looks very bare.

A much needed rain feli Monday morning. Crops, gardens and ail vegetables were suffering very much from the dry, windy weather of the past few weeks.

The following merchants have agreed to close their stores at o'clock from April 10th to August 18th, except on Saturdays: S. W. Copeland, J. M. Dannelly & Co., Ehrhardt Hdw. Co., H. Karesh, O. E. Kearse, M. Leinwand, J. M. Kirkland & Co., Chas. Ehrhardt & Son. This is a good move for the clerks. It will give them some time for outdoor exercise.

St. John's Items.

St. John's, April 3.—Mrs. Lee Hyatt and little son, of Round, S. C. are visiting their mother, Mrs. J. W. Kinard.

Miss Eva Williams, of Springfield, who has been teaching the St. John's school, left for her home last Thurs-

The school building caught on fire Wednesday and was completely de stroyed. The school furniture was all that was saved. No insurance was carried. There is some talk of a new building, which will be erected on the property that is owned by the school, which is almost adjoining the same site.

The farmers of this section are busy planting corn. A few patches of cotton can be seen planted. Think there will be but few when all are planted. We are glad to say our farmers are taking more interest in grain and feed crops than hereto-

The chain gang is doing some good work on the new road from Mount Pleasant toward M. O. Kinard's place. It taps the Barnwell and Walterboro public road.

Miss Edith Hiers entertained a large crowd of quilters Saturday. She gave them in return a large turkey, well prepared-for the writer was present to see it all and that is MUTT. not all.

Oak Grove News.

Oak Grove, April 3.-We have been having some nice rain. It will make everybody get to work on their farms. All the farmers were wishing for rain so they could get to

planting. Miss Sallie Garter has returned Franklin.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE.

Burnett Bill, Goes Through by Vote of 308 to 87.

Washington, March 30 .- The Burnett immigration bill, with its literacy test and Asiatic exclusion provisions unchanged, passed the house today, 308 to 87. It now goes to the senate, where favorable action is regarded as assured.

The literacy test, about which the fight against the bill has centred, was sustained, 284 to 107. This provision brought vetoes of similar immigration bills by President Cleveland, Taft and Wilson.

Representative Burnett, chairman of the immigration committee, predicted tonight there was sufficient strength to repass the bill over another veto. The president has not indicated his purpose to the house leaders.

Both record votes on the literacy test and on the passage of the bill were without regard to party lines. Majority Leader Kitchin voted for the literacy test and for the bill. Minority Leader Mann voted against the literacy test and then for the bill.

The Humphrey reciprocal exclusion amendment, aimed at retaliation on British Columbia because of its exclusion of skilled and unskilled labor from this and other foreign countries, was modified today on discovery that it operated against Russian immigration. It was made applicable only to a "contiguous" foreign country. Representative Bennett, of New York, read to the house a telegram from Louis Marshall, of New York, pointing out that the amendment as originally adopted would exclude Russian Jews, because Russia has forbidden American Jews to enter her domain.

The literacy test as adopted would exclude all aliens over 16, physically capable of reading, who cannot read English or some other language, except certain relatives of persons already in this country and certain classes of religious refugees.

Asiatic exclusion provisions specifically bar Hindus. Pacific coast members were satisfied with these provisions, who also give legislative recognition to the existing so-called 'gentlemen's agreement," with Japan for the exclusion of Japanese labor-

The bill extends and strengthens laws regarding smuggling and harboring of inadmissible aliens, increases penalties imposed on steamship companies for illegal acts in connection with immigrant traffic, requir'es ship companies to repay passage expenses tax from four to eight dollars, and imposes restrictions designed to prevent alien seamen who leave their ships from remaining in this country.

from a pleasant visit to relatives in Colleton county.

Mrs. D. E. Fender, of Ehrhardt, spent part of last week with her sister, Mrs. L. W. Copeland.

Miss Treasia Smith spent last Thursday night with Mr. and Mrs. L H. Carter and family.

Mrs. Rose Hoffman spent last Sunday with her sister, Mrs. George Mc-

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hunter and Miss Lucy Carter, of Bamberg, spent last Sunday with Mrs. A. W. Rentz. Miss Lonie Copeland spent last

Friday night with Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Carter and family. We hear of a wedding bell ring-

ing in our neighborhood now soon. Miss Clara Copeland was unable to teach her school last Monday and Mr. Williams Copeland took her place. Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Clayton

spent last Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Clayton. We are very sorry to hear of Mrs.

Joe Fender's illness. We hope she will be out again soon. Mr. Ren Felder dined with Mr. and

Mrs. L. H. Carter last Sunday. Branchville Breezes.

Branchville, April 1.-Miss Gressett, of St. George, is the guest of

Mrs. Earl Smoak. Mrs. Jones, of Augusta, and Mrs. Sollee Byrd, of Savannah, are visitors

at Mrs. Carrie Byrd's. Willie Watson and daughter, Miss Alma, of Sellers, attended the wed-Watson, Tuesday.

Monday evening in honor of her sister, Miss Nettie Berry, whose marriage took place on Tuesday morn-

Mrs. Islar and Mrs. Hutto, of Augusta and Charleston, were guests of matches this morning and it is sup-thorized to name county chairmen Mrs. Carrie Byrd last week.

Mrs. Dick Williams spent last week in Orangeburg with her mother, Mrs.

IN THE PALMETTO STATE

SOME OCCURRENCES OF VARIOUS KINDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

State News Boiled Down for Quick Reading.—Paragraphs About Men and Happenings.

Many citizens of Lexington whose property was destroyed in the great fire in that town last week are making preparations to rebuild at once.

Walter B. Sullivan, publisher of

the Columbia Record has severed his connection with that paper and has bought'a morning paper in North Carolina. The Farmers' Mutual Protection

association of Sumter, Clarendon and Lee counties, has been commissioned by the secretary of State to do a general fire insurance business. John Ray Fortner, an eight-year-

old boy of Greenville, died last week

of lockjaw which developed from a

splinter which the little fellow stuck in his foot several days ago. Sally May Hill, a 5-year-old child of Timmonsville, died Friday of burns received a few days ago when her clothing caught fire from grass which

was being burned off the garden. Several hundred head of cattle were sold in Greenwood Friday under the auspices of the South Carolina farm demonstration work. The average price was 9 cents a pound.

Francis J. Pelzer, the richest man in South Carolina, died at his home in Charleston Friday in the 90th year of his age. He owned a string of cotton mills in South Carolina.

Practically all of the stock of liquor which remained in the several State dispensaries when the business was discontinued January 1, has been sold at an average price of 50 per cent. of the real value.

The jury in the case of W. Grove Hollingsworth, of Abbeville, against the Seaboard Air Line railway who sued for \$40,000 damages for alleged injuries sustained in a wreck, returned a verdict for the railroad.

J. O. Smith, an alleged safe cracker who is believed to be the man wanted in Greenville in connection with the robbery of several safes in that city recently has been arrested in Lynchburg, Va., and brought back to Greenville.

The Carolina mills, of Greenville, which recently went into bankruptcy has been reorganized and named the Poinsett mills, Aug. W. Smith, of Spartanburg has been elected president of the mill, the authorized capital stock of which is \$600,000.

L. H. Bringlowe, keeper of the Morris Island lighthouse, reported to the Sixth district headquarters Monday that he discovered ten whales varying in length from 15 to 30 feet, cast up on the beach at the north end of Folly's island. This is an unusual happening as it is many years since whales have come this far south. No information as to the species of the whales was available.

TO CHECK RISE IN GASOLINE.

Two Measures Are Offered in National House.

Washington, March 29.—Two measures looking to putting a check on the rise in the price of gasoline were offered in congress today.

Amendment to the federal trade commission law was proposed by Representative Steenerson, of Minnesota. His bill would require certain dealers in petroleum, gasoline, kerosene and fuel oil to post prices, file them with the commission, require them to be just and reasonable and empower the commission to pre scribe just and maximum prices.

CHILD BURNED TO DEATH.

Supposed to Have Been Playing With Matches.

Bennettsville, April 3.-Little Viola Frazier, the 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Odell Frazier, of Florence, was burned to death here tutionality of the anti-compact law, this afternoon. The little girl, who which caused the withdrawal of the was visiting her grandparents, Mr. fire insurance companies from South and Mrs. J. M. Genes, left the house | Carolina, will be tested before the suding of Miss Nettie Berry and Pratt and went to an outbuilding on the preme court immediately. This acpremises. No one knows how the tion was decided on at a meeting Mrs. Hammon gave a reception on fire started, but when it was discov- here today of the committee of busiered by some neighbors it had made ness men named at the recent Stategreat headway. No one knew the wide conference on this subject. The child was in the burning building un- committee was instructed to employ til the body was discovered in the attorneys to bring the suit testing fire. She had been playing with the act, and the chairman was auposed that she ignited one of the out- who are to call meetings in each buildings and that a quantity of county of business men, farmers and broom straw between her and the members of the legislature to condoor caught on fire.

BIG DEMAND FOR BABIES.

Little Stranger on Doorsteps Much Sought in Spartanburg.

Spartanburg, April 1.—Babies are wanted in Spartanburg; this fact has been brought out very decidedly here today in the great demand upon Mayor Floyd for a little girl, one month old, found early Wednesday night on the doorstep of a North Church street home and turned over to the mayor for care. The little creature was sent by the mayor to the city hospital, where it remained during the night in the care of the nurses, to awake today a most sought for bit of humanity. The morning paper announced the finding of the infant and before 6 o'clock the mayor's residence telephone began to ring and in less than half an hour a dozen applications from persons wishing to adopt the child had been received.

Thursday afternoon Mayor Floyd stated that he had given the child to Mrs. Hugh Dillard, of North Church street, and that the little one had been taken to the Dillard home.

The baby was found on the front steps of the home of W. P. Wingo, by John Caldwell, assistant city engineer, who had gone to Mr. Wingo's home to see him on a matter of business. There is no idea as to the identity of the little foundling and the mayor says there will be no further investigation as to its former home.

SAPP SUCCEEDS DOMINICK.

Appointed Assistant Attorney General by Peeples.

Columbia, March 30 .- Claude N. Sapp, of Lancaster, was this afternoon appointed assistant attorney general and instructed to report for duty Monday. Announcement of the appointment was made by Attorney General Peeples. Mr. Sapp succeeds Mr. F. H. Dominick, of Newberry, who resigned and returned to his home in Newberry two weeks ago.

The new assistant attorney general is a native of Lancaster, a graduate of Wofford college and of the law department of the University of South Carolina, and a former member of the house of representatives from Lancaster county. He is well known throughout the State, and it is believed his appointment will meet with general satisfaction.

Attorney General Peeples has been conducting the office alone since Mr. Dominick's resignation.

LEVER SEED BILL IS PASSED.

Authorize Census Director to Collect and Publish Statistics.

Washington, March 29.—The Lever bill authorizing the census director to collect and publish monthly statistics of cotton seed and cotton seed products, was passed by the house late today, after an all-day debate, and now will go to the senate.

Chairman Helm, of the census committee, gave notice that he would call up next week the Helfin bill, directing the bureau to collect and publish statistics of cotton consumed in the manufacture of explosives during 1915 and quarterly thereafter.

In reporting the Lever bill, Representative Aswell, of Louisiana, said it was drafted after a conference with the census director and that it would afford an opportunity of making free application of the law of supply and demand.

"The census bureau now provides for collection of statistics from all the oil mills regarding the quantity of cotton seed crushed and linters obtained," he said. "This bill, however, provides for amplification of these statistics and makes mandatory the publishing of them at stated periods. The additional expense probably will be about \$10,000, with less annually after the first year."

TO TEST ANTI-COMPACT LAW.

Named at Recent Conference.

Columbia, March 30 .- The constisider the situation.

VILLA'S ARMY DEFEATED

MORE THAN THIRTY MEXICANS WERE KILLED.

Four Americans Injured, None Killed.-Villa R'eported Not in Fight Himself.

San Antonio, Texas, March 31. Thirty of Villa's soldiers killed, four American troopers wounded, none seriously, and more than 450 of the fugitive band dispersed after a running fight that extended over ten miles, is the summary of the first engagement between forces of the American punitive expedition and Francisco Villa.

Col. George O. Dodd surprised 500 of Villa's men at Guerrero March 29, and with a smaller force, comprising detachments of the 7th and 10th cavalry, began the attack that ended five hours later, when the Villa force had been chased into the hills northeast of Guerrero and broken into small bands.

Gen. Eliseo Hernandez was among the Villa followers killed. A man named Lopez, who was wounded, is believed to be Pablo Lopez, who commanded the bandits that killed nearly a score of Americans at Santa Ysabel and who erroneously was reported killed in the fight at Columbus, N. M. The number of Mexicans wounded was not stated in official advices.

Pershing's Report.

Gen. Pershing's report reached Gen. Funston today. Villa was not with the defeated force and Col. Dodd was believed to be forcing his that Villa, although wounded, recavalry to its utmost to run him down before he could reconcentrate his scattered men. It was reported to army headquarters here that Villa was wounded; had one of his legs broken and one of his hips badly bruised. The character of his reported injuries suggested that perhaps he had been injured in falling from his horse rather than by a gunshot, as had been unofficially report-

Col. Dodd attacked the Mexicans at 6 o'clock, according to Gen. Pershing's report, but whether in the forenoon or in the afternoon was not stated. Here it was regarded as probable that it was in the morning, for the action which followed was a cross-country chase that could not well have been made after dark.

Villa's Whereabouts.

Just where Villa was during the fight no one here knows, but he was reliably reported to have been nearby and prevented from being in the

engagement only by his injuries. Staff officers here believe there is no doubt that Col. Dodd's army strengthened by men sent forward by Gen. Pershing, have begun a driving hunt for the wounded bandit. It will be no surprise now to Gen. Funston and his staff to receive a report at any time telling of his capture. News of another battle soon is not expected, however, as the blow administered by Col. Dodd, it was believed, would serve to deter Villa's men from speedy reconcentration.

News of the punishment inflicted upon Villa's men was received with manifestations of delight at Gen. Funston's headquarters, and an echo of the manner in which it was received at the war department came in the form of a message of congratulation to Gen. Funston from Secretary Walker.

Divide the Credit.

Army men here were disposed to divide the credit for the action between Gen. Pershing and Col. Dodd. Gen. Pershing is in charge of all operations and doubtless directed the movements that culminated in the surprise attack, but Col. Dodd's cavalry aroused the admiration of officers at headquarters by the splendid riding they did.

Northwestern railway, in the region about the headwaters of the Santa Maria river, in the opinion of many

army officers here. Into the part of Mexico, three hundred miles from the border, Gen. Pershing has sent various columns of his punitive force. His use of one hundred and forty miles of the fights may take place frequently, Northwestern railroad south of Casus | their effect being to destroy the Grandes has enabled him to move morale of Villa's forces, sap their forward men and supplies to a point strength, and thus indirectly aid in a short distance north of Guerrero, and where a fair trail extends to the tain. south. Other troops that have been moving down the Santa Maria valley are in position to reinforce Col. Dodd | ico and a part of the American forces and all detachments could be brought | must remain to deal with them while together at any point in that district another part pushes on in the purwithout serious impairment of the suit of the fugitive chief.

TWENTY-FIVE DEAD.

Three Fast Passenger Trains on New Jersey Central Run Together.

Cleveland, March 29.-Federai and State investigations were begun today into the wreck on the New York Central at Amherst, Ohio, early today, when two sections of the Chicago-Pittsburg limited came together in a rear-end collision, killing at least thirty persons and injuring forty or more. The Twentieth Century limited, traveling westward, crashed into the wreckage.

The accident, which occurred before daylight, was one of the most disastrous in the history of the New York Central road. The two sections of the Chicago-Pittsburg limited, No. 86, are said to have been proceeding eastward at a rapid rate when the second section crushed into the first.

The Twentieth Century limited, proceeding in an opposite direction on a parallel track, ploughed into the debris. The heavy coaches and engines of No. 86 were toppled over and the tangled steel and woodwork was piled thirty feet in the air. Two cars of the Chicago-Pittsburg train were demolished and fourteen were derailed.

Tuberculosis is the chief cause of the condemnation of meat by the United States inspectors.

Seventy per cent. of the American people use electricity in some form every day.

lines of communication.

Optimism displayed at Gen. Funston's headquarters was not overconfidence, however. It was realized mained to be captured and that the loss of thirty men was not altogether a new experience for him. The optimism was based upon the belief that at last he was definitely located and that his wounded condition would make it more difficult for him to travel. Gen. Funston sent to Gen. Pershing his congratulations when Gen. Pershing entered Mexico, and assured him that the job was his to do in his own way. His way of doing it has proved satisfactory to his superior officer so far.

ANOTHER FIGHT WITH VILLA.

Between 30 and 40 Bandits Reported Slain.

San Antonio, Texas, April 4.—Surprised during their siesta, one of the groups of Villa's forces driven from Guerrero, was defeated Saturday by a squadron of the 10th cavalry, under Col. W. C. Brown, according to information obtained by Gen. Pershing and forwarded to Gen. Funston today. In this, the second engagement, the American troops have had with Villa's men, the bandits' losses were estimated at from thirty to forty killed. No mention of American

loss was made. News of the reported engagement, fought at the village of Aguas Calientes, twenty-five miles southeast of Bachinaba, was brought by friendly Mexicans to a point near Rubio. where a detachment of the 10th cavalry, under command of Major Evans, halted yesterday. At the time Gen. Pershing sent his dispatch to Gen. Funston he had not received an official report from Col. Brown, and the expeditionary commander pointed out that reports of the encounter lacked confirmation. Credence in the news was ndicated, however, by the fact that he transmitted it to army

headquarters here. Surprised at Noon.

According to the version of the Mexicans who arrived at Major Evans's headquarters, Col. Brown surprised and attacked the wandering bandits at noon while they were lying about the village, many asleep and all of their horses grazing. Other than the number reported killed and The man hunt now has been nor- the fact that the American forces rowed down to the region immediate- captured a number of horses, Major This Step Decided On By Committee ly west of Chihuahua, along the Evans's informants were without details of the encounter.

A previous report from Major Evans stated that Col. Brown was pursuing the Villa band through the town of San Antonio.

There was much interest at headquarters here in the fight, but it was realized, it was said, that such minor the effort to capture the outlaw chief-

There are known to be other bands operating in that same part of Mex-