

SUFFRAGE ISSUE IN UPPER HOUSE

MANY IMPORTANT MATTERS
COME BEFORE THE STATE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

DOINGS OF THE LEGISLATORS

Summary of the Important Bills That
Have Been Before the State General
Assembly During the Past Week.

Columbia. First symptoms of spirited debate in the senate this session appeared suddenly, when the Shepard resolution, asking for a referendum on the question of equal suffrage, was reached on the calendar. Motion by Senator E. C. Epps of Williamsburg to strike out the resolving words brought a number of senators to their feet clamoring for a chance to debate the issue, while others were pitched on their ears by the unexpected "drive" of the "eternal feminine" proposition. The house was fairly evenly divided against itself. Time for debate was finally fixed.

A large proportion of the senators are inclined to favor the referendum, without committing themselves to support of the amendment in the general election, while others argue that the question will be overwhelmingly defeated, even when submitted. Minds of all are apparently made up. Consensus of opinion is that with a full vote a majority will support the measure in the upper house. Many of those supporting the referendum feel bound by the resolution of the state Democratic convention last spring, which committed the question of woman suffrage to action by the states and not by the national government. Members of the upper house are hearing from those "back home" on the prohibition dilemma. Senator Laney of Chesterfield placed on the senate desk three petitions from his constituents, asking for an "air tight" prohibition law. These were signed by approximately 300 voters of Chesterfield.

Taking high rank among the new bills which came to the senate desk was that by Senator Stuckey of Lee county, which would greatly enlarge the activity of the state board of charities and corrections. Mr. Stuckey's bill would require that all state institutions confer with the board of charities and corrections as to sites for new buildings or enlargement of buildings and also as to proposed budgets of appropriations asked of the general assembly each session. Reservation is that the powers of the board of charities and corrections in these matters shall be purely advisory. A report from the board of charities and corrections, direct to the general assembly, would be required.

The house of representatives did one thing. It passed the Bradford bond resolution to a third reading, 90 to 23, after having defeated it by two votes a few days ago. The parliamentary clincher was applied and the resolution is now sure to be sent to the senate. The resolution takes away from the legislature the right to bond counties or other political subdivisions without submitting the question to the people, exceptions, however, past indebtedness. When the resolution received 81 votes of a needed 83, the opponents failed to clinch the situation. The author gained a reconsideration and the question was put on the calendar. Speaking in its favor were Representatives Mauldin of Greenville, Ford of Fairfield, Lesesne of Clarendon and Hamer of Dillon. The only member to speak against it was Representative Cottrah of Greenville.

The Bradford bond resolution which would take away from the legislature the right to bond counties or other political subdivisions without submitting the question to the people, amended so as not to apply to past indebtedness, failed by two votes to receive a two-thirds majority of the house and was killed. Eighty-two representatives voted for it with 82 necessary for passage. Representative Macfarlan of Chesterfield county has introduced a bill to cancel a Winthrop scholarship held by Miss Anne Fressil Houser, on the ground that the family lived in Chesterfield county only a few months and has moved away.

A majority unfavorable report has been made by the ways and means committee on Representative Daniel's prohibition bill which excludes from the state alcoholic liquors and wines, except for medical purposes. A minority favorable report was made.

Senator J. F. Williams of Alken introduced a bill providing traveling expenses for the circuit judges.

Efforts to modify the liquor laws of the state are gradually getting under way in the general assembly. A hearing on all liquor bills, introduced this session, was had before the police regulations committee when the authors of the respective measures appeared and argued the particular merits of each. Senator Dultant of Clarendon county introduced a bill which would prohibit the advertising of liquor in South Carolina newspapers, on posters or street cars. Sale of publications from without the state would also be forbidden, when such advertisements are carried.

Some of the varied aspects of the problem of the feeble minded were presented for the consideration of the general assembly by Alexander Johnson, field secretary of the national committee on provision for the feeble minded. Mr. Johnson told the legislators that the segregation of the feeble minded in a custodial institution maintained for them by the state was the best means of solving the problem which is most serious from social and economic standpoints. The lecture to the general assembly was illustrated.

A bill is now pending in both the house and the senate which provides for the creation of a custodial training school in which the white feeble minded persons in South Carolina can be segregated, given such training as their childlike minds are capable of taking, and taught to lead happy and useful lives.

As a result of the investigation made in this state under the direction of the state board of charities and corrections, in co-operation with the national committee on provision for the feeble minded, a great deal is known of the problem of the feeble minded in South Carolina. The investigation, details of which have given in the annual report of the board, show that many of the feeble minded in this state are absolutely unprotected and consequently propagate their kind at will, others are given little or no protection in county almshouses, some are in prisons and on chaingangs, and all of them are a burden upon the state, the carrying of which is costing a tremendously large sum. All the findings of the board point to the necessity of segregating the feeble minded in an institution if the burden of caring for them is to be lightened and steps taken toward solving the social problems they complicate.

Action against the state is contemplated in a bill introduced by Senator Banks of Calhoun which would empower the administration of Thelma Sanders and Minnie Sanders, deceased, to sue for damages, it being alleged that the death of the children was induced by antitoxin sent out by the state board of health.

Senator Manning of Dillon county introduced a bill which would exclude from the state patent medicines, biters and other nostrums, the chemical formulae of which show heavy alcoholic contents.

Further definition of the powers of county sheriffs, constables, and other officers, relative to seizure of contraband liquors, is asked in a bill introduced by Senator Ridgell of Lexington county.

Members of the General Assembly went to Charleston Wednesday to look over the state institutions. This was the last trip to be taken and the Solons have now gotten down to real work, and during this week and next the program of important legislation should swing into rapid pace.

Legislators from several counties have introduced bills, calling for large bond issues for road improvements. Bills, covering the proposed program of legislation, as outlined in the inaugural address of Gov. Manning, will in all probability be introduced. This would include proper provision for the feeble minded, for which an appropriation will be asked to build a training school; restricting the pardoning power of the chief executive; modification of the taxing system and several other important measures.

J. C. Townsend, chief clerk of the engrossing department of the general assembly, believes that a saving of \$1,000 or \$1,200 will be effected by the reorganization of this department, whereby only competent stenographers and typists are employed. Previously 22 clerks were engaged in the work of transcribing bills in long hand. Only 14 are employed this year.

In addition to the saving incident to reduced clerk hire, the bills are prepared more legibly thus greatly diminishing the possibility of typographical errors. The work is also done more rapidly.

Selection of employes in the department is by examination in stenography and typewriting. By this method the authorities hope to eliminate completely political preference. Those in the department this year are:

Removal of the disqualification from testifying of persons convicted of crime is provided in a bill introduced by Senator Bonham of Greenville. Conviction, the author explained, is often contingent on the testimony of another who, under the present statutes, is disqualified for minor offenses.

J. C. Townsend, chief clerk, Columbia; Miss Harriett Stroman, assistant chief clerk, Springfield; Miss Mary G. Sledge, Chester; Miss Cecelia McIntosh, Columbia; Miss Mayo Reese, Wedgefield; C. R. Spencer, University of South Carolina; Miss Fannie G. Wald, Orangeburg; Miss Emily S. Bellinger, Spartanburg; Miss Virginia Simpkins, Edgefield; Miss Helen Canton, Florence; Miss Elma Evans, Bishopville; Eugene Pollard, Greenville; Miss Sallie McMillan, Mullins.

Approximately 300 bills have been introduced in the two houses of the general assembly this session. Many of these are duplicate, the bills being introduced in both houses, often simultaneously. The average number introduced in the two sessions of each assembly approximates 1,000. New members usually provide the bulk of these the first session.

A bill, providing for an extension of the time for the payment of commutation taxes in Newberry and Lexington counties, has received two readings in the senate.

WILL MAKE STARCH OF SWEET POTATOES

CLEMSON AND FEDERAL AGENTS
PROPOSE BIG PLANT FOR
THIS STATE.

W.W. LONG DISCUSSES PLANS

Project Has Already Been Tried Out
on Small Scale.—Would Create
Market for Sweet Potatoes.

Columbia.—The extension division of Clemson college in co-operation with the United States department of agriculture has been working for some time on the problem of finding markets for the different agricultural products of the state, realizing that it is absolutely necessary to create greater markets if the farmer is to practice diversification. This was the object in urging the establishment of the packing houses at Orangeburg and Greenville, to provide a market for hogs and beef cattle and indirectly for surplus hay and grain. The establishment of the cream routes was to develop the dairying industry.

The creation of a market for sweet potatoes, that would justify the farmer in planting a large acreage, has been more or less perplexing, as the transportation of sweet potatoes to the Northern markets is a hazardous undertaking.

Clemson college some years ago, under the direction of the late M. B. Hardin, one of the foremost chemists in the country, took up the problem of working out the manufacturing of starch from sweet potatoes and Dr. Hardin was ably assisted by Prof. C. C. McDonnell, now in the bureau of chemistry of the United States department of agriculture, the late Prof. F. S. Shiver and later on by Prof. T. E. Keitt, chemist of Clemson college. These chemists worked on this problem from the laboratory end and in order to establish the practicability of utilizing sweet potatoes for the manufacture of starch, a small plant was established at Clemson college, through the co-operation of B. Remmers & Sons, chemical and consulting engineers of Philadelphia. The starch from the sweet potatoes was used in some of the cotton mills of the state. The experiments by the mills proved very satisfactory.

The movement for a starch mill has now been revived by W. W. Long, director of the farm demonstration forces, and a series of conferences with business men has been arranged for the building up of the new industry in South Carolina.

"In bringing this proposition before the business men of the state," said Mr. Long, "I want my position clearly understood, that from the laboratory and scientific end the matter of producing starch from sweet potatoes has been clearly demonstrated. Prof. T. E. Keitt, chemist of the South Carolina experiment station, and Mr. B. Remmers, chemical and consulting engineer of Philadelphia, will attend the different meetings that we propose to hold in the state and in conference with the business men, when the question of the advisability and feasibility of establishing starch factories will be taken up and discussed. These gentlemen will throw light on every angle and it will rest with the business men to determine whether the profits that might be expected from the enterprise would justify them in erecting a plant and whether they would be able to pay the farmer a price for his potatoe that would justify his growing them."

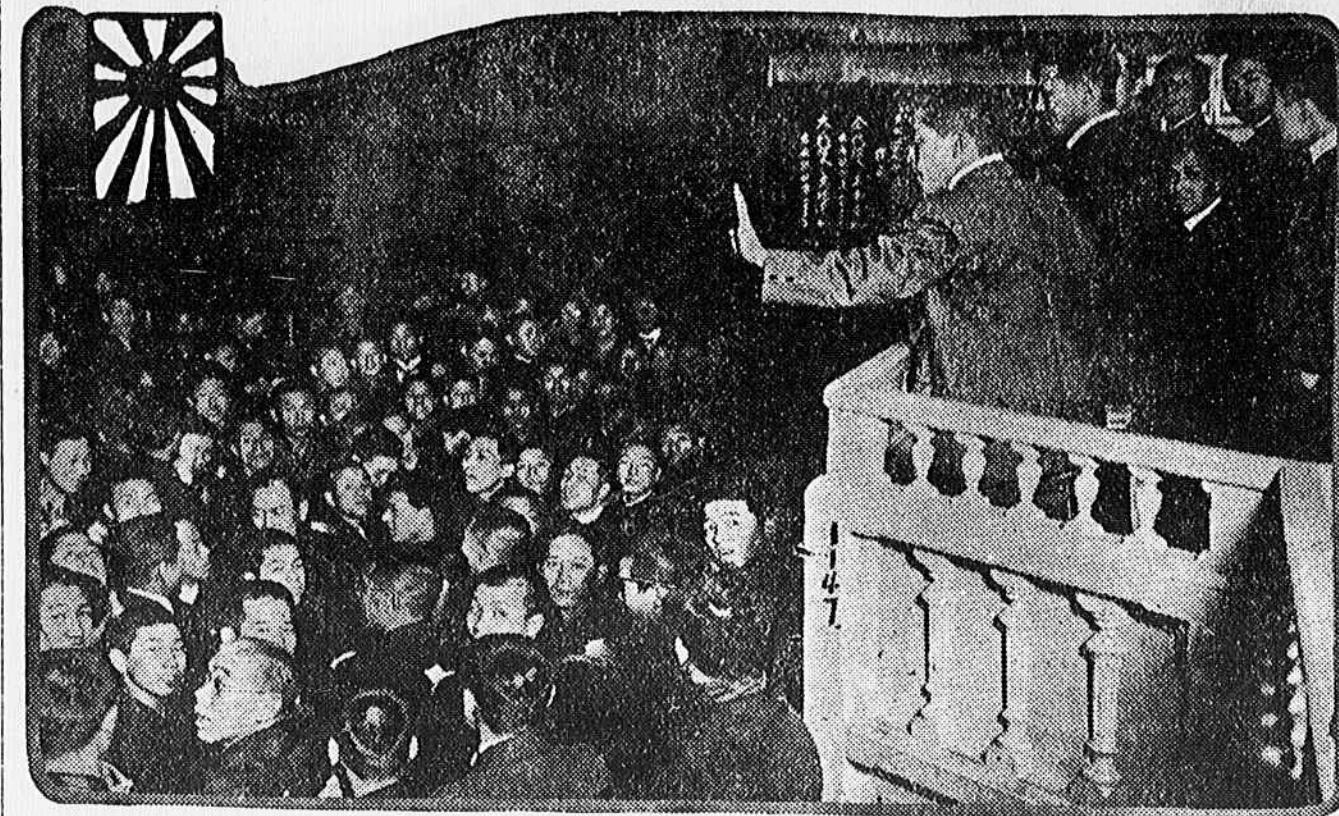
Industrial chemists, business men and farmers met in Columbia Monday to discuss plans for trying the new industry. Conferences will also be held at other points in the state at early dates.

Material For Bridge Arrives.
Chester.—The steel bridge that will span the Catawba river on the Southern railway between Catawba and Lancaster has arrived and a large crew of workmen is now engaged in getting it together. The new structure will be considerably higher than the older one.

\$20,000 Threatre For Spartanburg.
Spartanburg.—A new theater, to cost \$20,000, is to be built on East Main street at once. The contract has already been let, and the work will begin in a few days. C. L. Henry, who is proprietor of the Rex Theatre in this city, designed the plans for the theater, and it will be the largest in the state. The seating capacity will be over 1,000, and the auditorium will measure 60 by 100 feet, with a balcony in the rear, and a large stage in front. The new building will be fireproof.

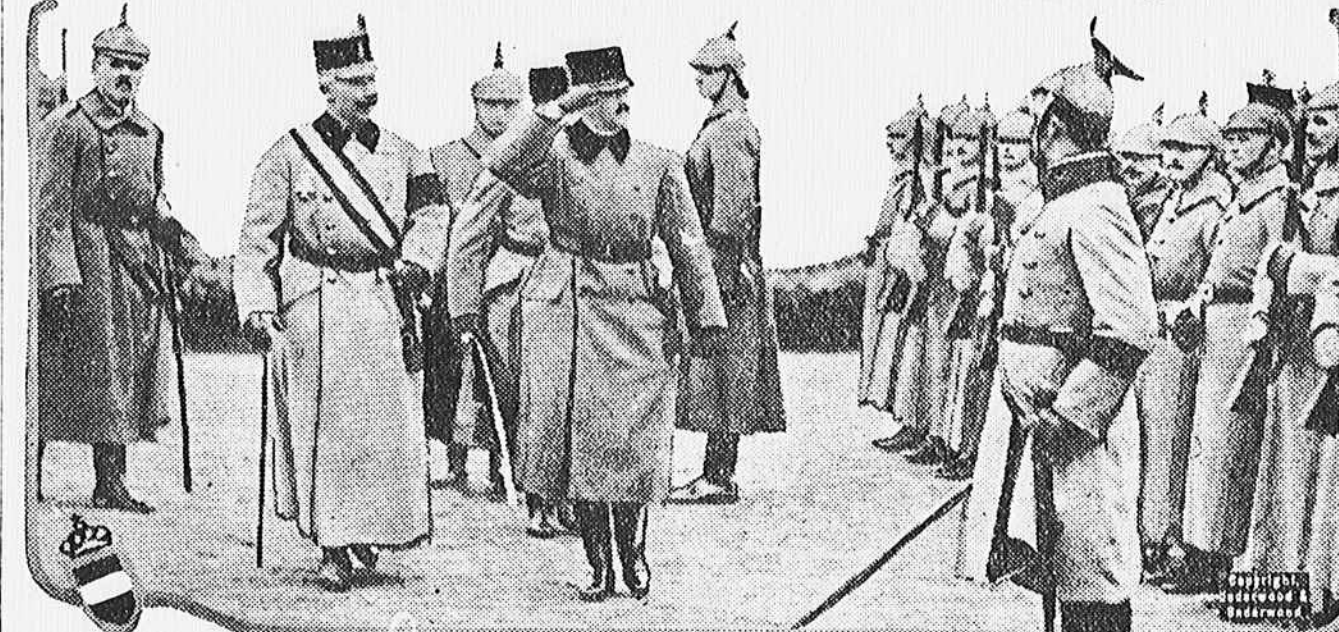
Girl Killed In Auto Accident.
Charleston.—Marie Monseratt, 15 years of age, is dead here as the result of an automobile accident. With her mother and other women and two men she was enjoying a ride shortly after midnight. Coming back to the city, seven miles from Charleston, the automobile overturned turning a corner in a bad place in the road. Marie was fatally hurt, receiving internal injuries and severe cuts. She died on the way to the hospital. The others in the machine escaped without much more than a shaking up.

WHEN TOKYO'S STOCK EXCHANGE SHUT DOWN



Scene in the stock exchange of Tokyo, Japan, when it closed on account of the turmoil caused by peace rumors that followed the issuance of Germany's note.

EMPERORS OF GERMANY AND AUSTRIA TOGETHER



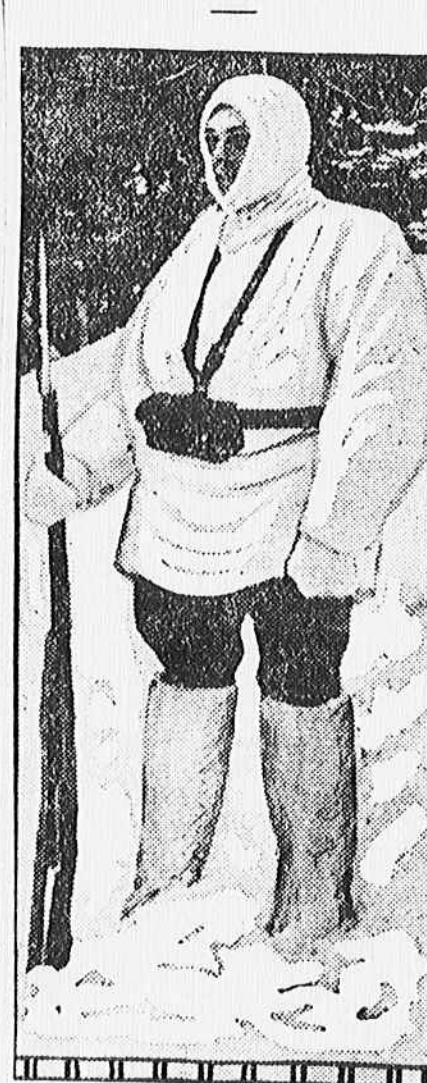
This is the first photograph to arrive in this country showing the two emperors together since the death of Francis Joseph and the elevation of Karl Francis Joseph to the throne of Austria. It will be noticed that the kaiser is wearing a crepe band on his left arm in memory of the late Austrian emperor.

FLOATING AMBULANCES ON THE ISONZO



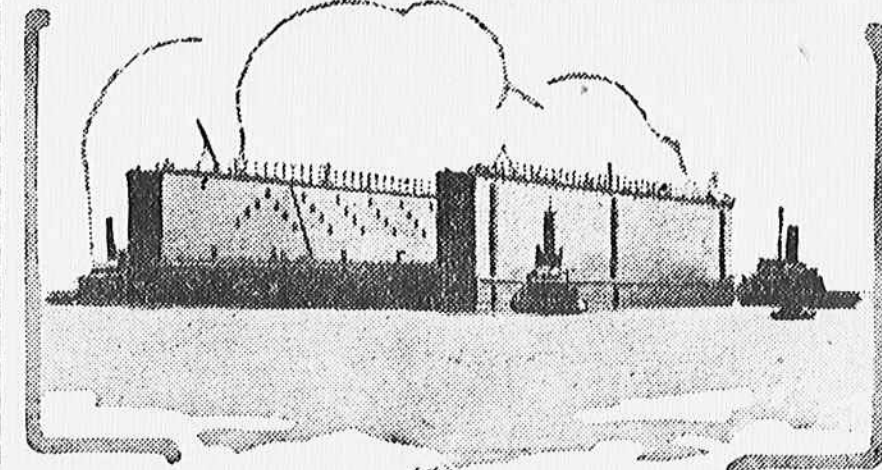
Part of the excellent equipment of the Italian army is these Red Cross floating ambulances that are in use on the Isonzo river.

IN HIS WINTER UNIFORM



An Italian sentry in the winter uniform of white that makes him almost invisible to the enemy in the snow-covered mountains.

LARGEST FLOATING WOODEN DRYDOCK



This floating drydock, the largest ever built of wood, is of American construction. It is 450 feet long, with 25-foot platforms on the overhang at both ends, and 80 feet wide between the wings. It was launched at Hunters Point, Cal.

WORTH KNOWING.

Electricity is the only agent that will thaw frozen water pipes without disturbing the ground in which they are buried.

Pent covers about one-seventh of the area of Ireland, and deposits are estimated to contain 40,000,000 tons of fuel.

A process has been invented in Germany for tinning small articles by placing them in a centrifugal machine which is revolved in molten metal.

Operated by current from a light socket, a two-fan electric ventilator has been invented for offices and residences that, when set in a window, draws in fresh air and expels that already in a room.

Seventy-eight gold watch fobs have been awarded employees of the Southern Pacific railroad who did efficient safety-first work during the last year. The prizes are won under a point system, credit of so many units being given for suggestions which are classified as to value and the number of prize points merited by each.

Mohammedans are supposed neither to drink wine nor to eat pork, but All-ben-Hamou, dethroned sultan of Zanzibar, who now lives affluently in Paris, has a bold and original way of doing both. At the table he places his Koran beside him, urges "Oh, holy prophet, may thy Koran protect me," and falls to with a will.

In the first nine months last year the United States imported 18,500,000 pounds of sugar-beet seeds, mainly from Russia.

What is believed to be the most durable highways in the world have been made in France of a concrete composed of iron shavings, cement and sand.

More than 8,000 persons signed the visitors' book at Shakespeare's birthplace at Stratford-on-Avon in 1914. Last year the total number was 254.

The miners of Spitzbergen are apt to get their mail only at intervals of eight months, but they get the news of the world twice a day by wireless.

A waterproof electric motor has been invented by an Australian to drive brushes against the hulls of vessels to clean them without dry-docking.

Apparatus with which photographic plates can be loaded into holders or removed and developed in daylight has been invented by a South Dakota man.