

# The Laurens Advertiser.

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## PROSPECTS BRIGHT FOR HEALTHY SESSION

### South Carolina Legislature Convened Yesterday.

## IMPORTANT MEASURES ARE COMING UP

With the Old Time Demagogic Hobbies Out of the Way and Nothing for the Politicians to Harp on The Session Just Opening Will Give Opportunity for Much Good Work.

With the whiskey question apparently sidetracked and other questions from which material results could never be obtained in the background, the prospects are that the sessions of the South Carolina general assembly, which commenced yesterday, will be one of the most important held in a number of years, and one from which measures of a beneficial nature will be obtained.

The indications are that there will be many measures of importance introduced and enacted into laws. Among the most important matters that will be brought before the legislature will be that of improving the agricultural conditions, reforms as to taxation, several amendments to the child labor law, an enabling act to carry out a general scheme for drainage, the election of an associate justice, the ratifying of the constitutional amendments with reference to an increase in the membership of the supreme court and that providing for the assessment of abutting property for permanent improvements in several towns of the State, a general revision of the present school law, increased salaries for the state officials, the Torrens system, agricultural high schools, good roads, the election of two circuit judges, the election of a speaker, further provision for the work of the State Hospital for the Insane commission, and, as usual, many measures of local interest.

### Agriculture.

At no time in the history of the state has there been manifested so much interest in agriculture. It is not thought that any measure in the interest of the agricultural situation will meet with any great degree of opposition in the house or senate.

C. A. Smith, lieutenant governor, is the presiding officer of the senate and it is practically certain that M. L. Smith of Camden, will be the speaker of the house. He is a former speaker of the legislature with a long career. M. F. Ansel will retire as the governor of South Carolina on next Tuesday. C. L. Blease, the governor-elect will be inaugurated on that day. There are a number of new members of both bodies.

### Ansel's Message.

Governor Ansel has completed his message, but he has given no intimation as to its contents. He has stated that he will not ask that the executive mansion be improved. He thinks that the State should devote all surplus funds to the improvement of conditions at the State Hospital for the Insane. He will, however, for the fourth time, ask the legislature to be more liberal with the State officials in the matter of salaries. Governor Ansel thinks that the salaries should be increased to what they were a few years ago. This increase, if granted, of course, would not affect any man now holding office.

### Taxation.

While Comptroller General Jones has not yet completed his annual report he has stated that he will make several recommendations. He will ask the legislature to create a tax commission, whose duty it will be to handle all tax matters and take the place of the State board of equalization. He will also ask that the income tax law be abolished or that some means be given him to enforce the law. He has consistently recommended the creation of a tax commission for the past several years, but the matter has never been given attention by the general assembly.

### Education.

The report of the commission named to revise the school laws of the State will be sent to the general assembly. Members of the commission declare that the law is progressive, yet conservative. Just what changes have been made in the law

is not known. The report is very likely to be sent to the legislature next Wednesday. For the past several years the State has not maintained a summer school for teachers. The Peabody board of trustees recently appropriated or rather donated the sum of \$1,500 for a State summer school for teachers to be held at Winthrop College. The legislature will be asked to give the sum of \$5,000 addition for the success of the summer school for teachers. A uniform scholarship law, applying to the state colleges will be urged. These reports will cover the work of the State institutions for the year. Last summer the State Farmers' Union passed a resolution which asked that the number of free scholarships to Clemson college be increased. Clemson college is now receiving approximately \$240,000 from the fertilizer tax. The number of scholarships has not been increased since the amount was only \$150,000. There will be many measures of minor importance to the education system of the state introduced.

### Labor Laws.

The South Carolina committee on child labor will urge the passage of a law to eliminate all children under 12 years of age from work in the manufacturing plants of the state. A birth and registration law will be asked. This law is considered essential by the committee to the proper enforcement of the child labor law. It will also be asked that children under 16 years of age be exempted from night work. The present child labor law permits the working of children under 12 years of age under certain exemptions. The reports from the textile department of the State shows that the child labor law has been most successfully enforced during the past year. There has been no friction.

### Asylum Commission.

The commission charged with relieving the conditions at the State hospital for the Insane was appointed for only one year. This commission has formulated its report, which will give the work that has been done during the year. It is expected that the legislature will provide for a re-appointment of all of the members and that some sort of a measure as to additional funds will be passed. The resolution authorized that only \$100,000 be spent for the work of improving conditions.

### Finances.

A question that is always important to the legislature is that of finances. Last year the general assembly authorized the State treasurer to borrow \$550,000 for the running expenses of the State government. Whether this amount will have been increased or decreased for 1911 will not be known until the estimate has been made by the comptroller general. The levy last year was five and three-fourth mills. The general assembly will determine the levy for this year.

### Dispensary Commission.

What will be possible to the legislature will be submitted to the legislature by the dispensary commission, which was created over three years ago. The report of the commission will show that approximately \$500,000 has been saved to the State by the work of the commission and Attorney General Lyon. The commission will very probably be disbanded by the legislature as there is little left to be attended to.

Under normal conditions and barring a deadlock the general assembly will be in session for forty days. The members will very likely take a trip to Winthrop college on January 19. It is not likely that another trip will be made—Spartanburg Herald.

## THE WARE SHOALS CASE.

### The Appeal of the Local Stockholders Will Be Heard in the Supreme Court Next Week.

The case of J. O. C. Fleming, et al. vs. Benj. Riegel et al., commonly known as the Ware Shoals case, will be heard in the Supreme Court at Columbia next week. The 8th circuit docket will be taken up on Monday and it is supposed that this case will be given first attention.

Messrs. R. L. Cooper, A. C. Todd and P. P. McGowan will appear for the plaintiffs-appellants and Messrs. Grier & Park and Cotran, Dean & Cotran will appear for the defendants-respondents, the Riegels.

The attorneys on both sides have presented voluminous briefs and the case will be elaborately argued.

## LAURENS FINANCES REVIEWED BY JONES

### Alleged Shortage to Be Reported to the Legislature.

## REFERS TO RECENT AUDIT OF THE BOOKS

### Discrepancies Chargeable to Two Administrations, Covering a Period from 1898 to 1906. Inclusive—Comptroller General Will Make Recommendations.

The following, relating to the muddled affairs of Laurens County's finances and the oft-attempted efforts to clear up the situation, is reproduced from the Columbia State:

Comptroller General Jones will report a shortage of over \$8,000 in the finances of Laurens county to the general assembly, and in this connection will have several recommendations as to the special examinations of books of the counties by auditing companies. According to the report of the comptroller general, which covers an investigation on the part of auditing company and his office, the shortages occurred during the administrations of Messrs. Babb, ex-county treasurer, and J. H. Copeland, deceased. The shortages are alleged to have occurred during the past several years there being charged to Babb the sum of \$5,546.95 and to Mr. Copeland the sum of \$5,057.40.

Discussing special reports by auditing companies on the finances of counties, Mr. Jones has the following to say:

"An examination of the reports of these experts show that such examination of the reports by these experts are of little value, because such experts are not familiar with the ordinary administrative law governing the conduct of affairs to be investigated, and on that account can not properly check up or verify even the settlement sheets, much less make up an accurate statement of the legal charges against the county treasurer and the credits to be allowed."

The alleged shortage in Laurens county is reviewed as follows by the comptroller general:

### Laurens County.

"During the past year an examination of the books and accounts of the county treasurer of Laurens county between the years 1898 and 1906, inclusive, at an expense of \$1,200, was made by experts appointed by the governor, under the provisions of a joint resolution of your honorable body, approved February, 1910.

"These experts commenced their work on July 20, and first reported that they had completed it on September 20. In their report, dated September 24, these experts said:

"In order to make a complete and thorough audit of the books we decided to check the duplicate of the treasurer, together with the tax receipts, thus showing the taxes collected for the different years.

"We also checked with the books the dispensary receipts, fines and licenses collected and money borrowed.

"We also checked the disbursements. We were impressed with the fact that the two treasurers, Messrs. Babb and J. H. Copeland, whose administrations this audit covers, made every effort to charge themselves with every dollar that passed their hands, and we believe that they did so charge themselves.

"We wish to state that on account of the lack of system and manner of bookkeeping, it is almost impossible, after a lapse of so many years, to gather from the scattered records every item of both debit and credit, and could this be done, it is our opinion that the records would then show every dollar properly accounted for."

"They reported that there was \$609.86 to be accounted for by the county treasurer, of which they gave to the State \$143.10 and to the county \$206.28 and school \$257.38.

### Certain Accounts not Charged.

"Upon their filing the above report with the governor, the comptroller general called his attention to the fact that they had failed to charge to John H. Copeland, as county treasurer in 1906, the item of \$5,500, borrowed moneys, pointed out in the comptroller general's report for 1906. This

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## MONUMENT UNVEILING ON LEE'S BIRTHDAY

### Program Announced for Clinton Unveiling.

## GENERAL BONHAM TO MAKE ADDRESS

### An Interesting Program Has Been Announced for the Ceremonies at Clinton when the Monument Erected by the Daughters of the Confederacy Will Be Turned over to the City.

Clinton, Jan. 9.—The program has been made for the unveiling of the Confederate monument on Thursday, January 13. The exercises will begin at 10 o'clock and will be held partly in Copeland's Hall and partly on the square around the monument.

Mr. A. E. Spencer will be Master of Ceremonies, Dr. W. A. Spauld, Marshall. The music will be furnished by the Presbyterian college Glee Club. The address will be delivered by the Hon. M. L. Bonham of Anderson. Following is the complete program:

Music—A Southern Melody.

Opening Prayer—Rev. Harrison Fowler.

Song—Sing Me a Song of the Sunny South.

Address—by Gen. Bonham.

Music—Tenting on the Old Camp Ground.

March to Monument.

Unveiling—by 12 boys and girls.

Presentation to the town—by the Rev. Dr. Jacobs on behalf of Stephen D. Lee Chapter.

Acceptance—by the Rev. J. E. Mahaffey on appointment of Mayor McMillan.

Benediction—Rev. Harrison Fowler.

Following the exercises the ladies will serve lunch to the veterans in the city hall.

The chief social event of the week will be the marriage on Wednesday evening, in the First Baptist church of Miss Sadie Philson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel P. Philson, to Mr. Walter Anderson, of Redville. The Rev. C. Lewis Fowler will officiate. Following the ceremony a reception will be given by the bride's parents to a large number of guests.

Owing to some delay in the installation of the heating plant the graded school building will not be ready for occupancy before January 19th. The youngsters are enjoying their unusual mid-winter holiday to the utmost.

The third number of the Lyceum course was given by Mr. and Mrs. Cox in the Utopia Monday evening before a large and appreciative audience.

Some of the pupils and ex-pupils of the graded school presented "The Merchant of Venice, Up-to-date" Friday night during Christmas week and cleared \$17.00 which will be used toward the furnishing of the school-room used by Miss Sarah Copeland in the new wing of the graded school building. The play was successfully presented last commencement as the tenth grade class play and its repetition during Christmas week was made possible by the fact that a number of the performers, who are attending college elsewhere were at home for the holidays. Among these were Misses Emmie Robertson and Chloe Johnson of Winthrop, Louis Norman of the Spartanburg business college, Earl Davidson of Wofford.

Robt. S. Owens, for some time past editor of the Chronicle, has resigned and will go this week to the University of South Carolina to take up the study of law. Wilson W. Harris has accepted the position of editor of the Chronicle and enters this week on the discharge of his duties.

### Big Land Sale.

Mr. J. N. Leak, the land man, will conduct a sale of five fine residence lots and six business lots in Gray Court on January 12th, tomorrow. All of these lots are in fine neighborhoods and most probably they will sell readily. As Mr. Leak makes things interesting on sales days, it is expected that a large crowd will be on hand to see the show and buy the lots.

Mr. J. P. Philson, of Clinton, was in the city Saturday on business.

## DEATH OF MRS. BABB.

### Member of Prominent Laurens County Family Dies at Her Home in Missouri.

Columbia, Mo., Dec. 27.—The funeral of Virginia Cooper Babb, wife of the late Rev. R. F. Babb, who died Sunday afternoon was held at 10 o'clock this morning at the residence of her son, J. G. Babb, 812 Virginia avenue. Mrs. Babb had been confined to her bed for more than six months and her death was due to old age and infirmity. She was 83 years old.

She is survived by four children: W. J. Babb of Wichita, Kas.; H. B. Babb, a Denver attorney; J. G. Babb, secretary of the University of Missouri, and Mrs. E. B. Gentry, of Columbia. Two sons have died: Joseph Cooper Babb, a Confederate soldier, who died a prisoner of war in St. Louis, and James Franklin Babb, who died in 1877, after graduation from the University of Missouri.

W. J. Babb of Wichita, Kas., and William Gentry of St. Louis, came to Columbia yesterday to attend the funeral. The interment was at 11 o'clock. Deceased was born in St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 18, 1827. Her father, Dr. W. W. Green, Dr. White, Dr. McMillan, Dr. Woodson, Dr. L. D. Thomson and Prof. J. S. Ankeney. Burial was in the Columbia cemetery.

Mrs. Babb was born in Laurens county, South Carolina, October 8, 1827. At the age of 21 she married R. F. Babb, who died in 1898. They moved to Missouri just before the Civil War, and in 1872 moved to Columbia to educate their children. Mrs. Babb had been a member of the Baptist church for more than fifty years, and of the church in Columbia for thirty-eight years.

On her father's side she was descended from a long line of Quaker ancestry, being the seventh descendant of William Cooper, a friend of William Penn, and one of the founders of the Pennsylvania colony. Her grandfather, Jeremiah Cooper, emigrated from Pennsylvania to Virginia about the time of the Revolutionary War, where he married and reared a family of twelve children.

Her father, Joseph Cooper, emigrated to South Carolina about 1810, where he married Sarah Franklin, a near relative of Benjamin Franklin. Of their fifteen children Mrs. Babb was the tenth child and the last survivor. —University Missourian.

## AN ASSOCIATIONAL CONFERENCE FRIDAY

### Executive Committee Has Invited Representatives of All Baptist Churches of County to Meet Here—Purposes of Conference.

There will be held at the First Baptist church on Friday, January 13, an associational conference, called by the executive committee of the Laurens Baptist association. Instead of being the regular annual meeting of the executive board, it was decided to invite one or more representatives of the thirty Baptist churches of the county to meet with the board on this occasion for the purpose of mapping out the work of the churches in this association during the current year.

The conference will be presided over by Chas. B. Bobo, chairman of the executive board, and will open with devotional exercises, led by Rev. H. L. Baggott, pastor of Chestnut Ridge and Rabun Creek churches. At 12:30 adjournment will be taken for dinner which will be served by a committee of ladies in the basement of the church.

The program, as prepared by the committee, is as follows:

10:30—Devotional, Rev. H. L. Baggott.

11:00—"The Needs of Our Association," Rev. J. A. Martin, W. C. Wharton.

11:30—The Possibilities of Our Association, Rev. C. Lewis Fowler.

12:00—The King's Business, Rev. Wm. E. Thayer.

12:30—Adjournment for One Hour.

1:30—Business Session.

## To Rebuild Rasors Bridge.

As will be seen in another column of this paper, the supervisors of Laurens and Greenwood counties are making preparations to rebuild the old Rasors Bridge, which was washed away in the flood of 1898. As will be remembered the legislature at its last session, passed a bill requiring the counties to rebuild the bridge at a cost not exceeding \$1,000. This amount will only allow the building of a wooden structure.

## HANDSOME UNION STATION OCCUPIED

### New Depot Admiration of Town and Public.

## IN ROUND NUMBERS TOTAL COST \$25,000

### Was Constructed by the Columbia, Newberry & Laurens Railway Company, But Charleston & Western Carolina Will Pay Half the Cost.

The Laurens union station is finished. This announcement, at the beginning of the new year, is particularly gratifying to the city of Laurens, and to the public generally it will doubtless be received with keen pleasure. The doors have been thrown open to the traveling public, and during the past few days hundreds of visitors have taken time to make an inspection of the building with its spacious and well-furnished waiting rooms, private rest rooms, dining and baggage rooms, kitchen and the different offices. And all pronounce it superb, grand!

The new passenger station is located between the tracks of the Charleston & Western Carolina railroad on the west and the Columbia, Newberry & Laurens road on the south and was constructed by these two railway companies, the cost of building it being equally divided. The total cost approximates \$25,000. The building was planned by Architect Equart of Columbia for the C. N. & L. railroad company, and their design meeting the approval of the other railway people, it was agreed that the building be done by the Columbia people, with G. E. Harvey as general foreman and manager. It is a flat-iron structure in shape and in all its appointments it was designed for comfort and convenience. It is of brick with stone trimmings, cement and marble floors, metal ceilings and roof, and provided with city water and electric lights—in brief, it is a thoroughly equipped, modern finished and furnished passenger station which is at once a credit to the city of Laurens and the two railway companies that united in building it.

### LYCEUM NUMBER TONIGHT.

The Native New Zealanders will be the attraction at the Opera House. The New Zealanders, about whom the advance notices are very complimentary, will be the attraction at the Opera House tonight. This is one of the city Lyceum numbers and the admission will be as usual to those not members. This number comes under the city Lyceum course and is not to be confused with the Graded School course.

The New Zealanders come highly recommended and doubtless will give an attractive entertainment in the song and story of their native land.

## Dr. Schayer in Cincinnati.

Dr. Isadore Schayer is in Cincinnati attending a series of special lectures on the blood remedy, "606," recently discovered by an eminent German physician whose successful experiments have attracted universal attention. Dr. Schayer will be absent from the city for about ten days.

## Oil for The Legislature.

The Laurens delegation to the general assembly, composed of State Senator John H. Wharton, Representatives John H. Miller, W. C. Fry, Jr., and J. Archie Willis, went to Columbia Tuesday morning and were present for the convening of the legislature at noon.

## Gray Court Personals.

Gray Court, Jan. 9.—After several rainy days, we have a pretty good looking crop of wheat and oats.

Miss Corrie Mahon after spending several weeks inasley returned home last Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Babb of Edon community were the visitors of Mrs. Nancy Owens Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Mahon visited Mr. Tom Mahon, Sunday.

Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Reason of Edon community visited the home of Mrs. T. P. Babb Friday.

Mr. W. A. Blawie and his family had a slowly improving.

Mrs. Vivian Owens spent Saturday night with Misses Mae and Alice Babb.