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A. C. JONES, Publisher and Proprietor.

NO. 1

## Comments of the State Press on the Work of the General Assembly of 1886.

There is but little reform or retrenchment in the work of the Legislature of South Carolina for the session of 1886, for the reason that there is but little room for retrenchment and reform. The Legislature worked hard, however, and is entitled to discriminating commendation for what it did, and for what it left undone.

During the session 141 bills were passed by both houses, and have become laws. Only 24 are general public Acts; 16 relate to railroads; 36 relate to county affairs and 12 to municipal charters; 29 are miscellaneous charters; 4 relate to the sale of liquor; 7 relate to the stock law; 5 relate to appropriations, and 6 to miscellaneous matters. The Joint Resolutions ratifying the Constitutional amendments, relating to the bonded debt and to the census, which were voted on by the people in November, make up the count.

So far as the General Appropriation bill is concerned, there was not—in fact, there could not properly be—any material reduction in the amount appropriated. The State Government is run now on an economical basis as is consistent with prompt and efficient administration. Before the meeting of the General Assembly, and during its session, there was much well-meaning talk of reduction of expenses. The hard common sense of a majority of the Legislature, however, prevented any sweeping changes. In one very important respect a much-desired amendment has been effected. This is embodied in the Act providing for the transportation of convicts from county jails to the Penitentiary at the expense of that institution. This will relieve the counties of a very onerous tax. The Act reducing the fees for detaining prisoners will also lighten the burden on the counties somewhat, although the provisions of the Act will work hardship to the sheriffs of some counties.

As a result of the action of the Farmers' Convention, a bill was passed providing for the establishment of two experimental agricultural stations in the State. The bill which passed the House was considerably modified in the Senate, but its substance was retained, and the official representatives of the farmers are understood to be satisfied with it. Two other measures introduced in response to the memorial of the farmers, viz., the bill to reorganize the agricultural department, and the bill to provide for the equalization of taxes, were passed by the House and disallowed by the Senate, the former having been postponed to the next session, and the second having been rejected.

The appropriations for the State University are liberal. The bill providing for a tuition fee of \$40 passed both houses, with a proviso that beneficiary scholarships can be given to deserving persons by the faculty at their discretion. No boy who is poor will be rejected on that account. The free scholarships will be conferred by the faculty, and they may be confidently counted upon to exercise sound judgment. The tuition fees, however, should go to the College fund, as a means of augmenting the power and, therefore, the usefulness of that institution.

The phosphate royalty remains as before, a select committee having been appointed to sit during the recess and investigate the subject, with leave to report by bill.

The Legislature, taking into consideration the distress prevailing in the State, has extended to January 15 the time for paying the taxes, and in certain sections of Charleston, Colleton and Berkeley counties, affected by the earthquake, the time is extended until February 1.

The legislation on the subject of liquor selling was about equally divided as far as prohibition and anti-prohibition are concerned. Anderson and Laurens have a new iron-clad prohibition law, which is extreme in character and apparently incapable of enforcement. It must be borne in mind, however, that in order to secure a special election under this law a majority of the real estate owners in the counties named must petition for it. It is doubtful, it is said, that a majority of the property owners of either Laurens or Anderson counties will consent to the provisions of the new law. In addition, an Act was passed authorizing the issuing of license for the sale of liquor in the counties of Beaufort and Berkeley, where, for one reason or another, prohibition is a failure. The Barnwell county prohibition law was also repealed.

The Labor Contract bill, which appeared to the News and Courier so unwise and provocative of strife and discontent, was postponed to the next session.

The tax levy for the year is four

and a quarter mills for State purposes, being one mill less than that of last year.

The Columbia Canal is entirely unprovided for, the friends of the canal preferring that condition of things to the compromise plan suggested, at a late hour of the session, and which contemplated the connecting of the old and new canals and the assurance of only water power sufficient to run the penitentiary and the city water-works.

A highly important measure which became a law is the General Incorporation bill. It will save the State much money and it will save the promoters of new undertakings both expense and delay.

All in all, there is much that is bright and good in the action and inaction of the Legislature this session. The educational institutions of the State—including the Citadel and the College—are maintained in their vigor, if they are not increased in strength. The farmers have made a beginning in the education of the people in the special needs of agriculture. The militia holds its ground, and with substantial reasons. We regret exceedingly that the Senate defeated the proposition to raise a committee to inquire into the construction and cost of agricultural colleges for the information of the Legislature, and it is unfortunate that a committee was not appointed to formulate any necessary amendment of the Constitution. But we could easily have gone farther to fare worse.—*News and Courier.*

We think, despite the gloomy prophecies made prior to the meeting of the Legislature, and the unfavorable criticisms showered upon it since, that this Legislature will compare very favorably with its predecessors. The new members from whom so much disaster was feared, proved themselves, in a number of cases, efficient, working members, and radical Legislation was urged in a great majority of cases by the older members.—*Watchman and Southron.*

The General Assembly has convened, held its session, transacted its business, and then dissolved. Great things were expected from it, but nothing in particular, above ordinary sessions, was realized.—*Enterprise and Mountaineer.*

The State expenditures have been reduced in an exceedingly small degree—in a degree not worth mentioning. The State levy is 4 1/4 mills, which, on \$140,000,000 assessed valuation, calls for \$595,000 of taxes. The two-mill school tax calls for \$280,000, aggregating for State and school tax \$875,000. Edgefield's tax, which, we hoped last week, would be only 9 mills, will now be near 10 or 10 1/2 mills.

The sum appropriated to the State Agricultural and Mechanical Society has been cut down from \$2,500 to \$1,000.

The much-mooted reorganization of the State Agricultural Department has gone over. Not only does this Department remain untouched, but its power and patronage are enlarged by having control of the two experimental stations which are to be established—with an appropriation of \$10,000 for their support. The farmers themselves defeated this proposed reorganization; not the lawyers, nor the preachers.—*Edgefield Chronicle.*

The Legislature adjourned last Friday. Judgments of its work will be various. Some will say it has been the best and others that it has been the worst General Assembly that has met for years and neither will be right. It was a good body of men, anxious to do good and without axes to grind. The worst thing about it has been its too great reliance on law, making as the cure for hard times, as evidenced by the avalanche of bills introduced. Just think of it! Three hundred and sixty-nine in the House and almost as many in the Senate. If so many patches and prescriptions are necessary then the body politic is in a bad way and likely to be darned and doctored to death. But our legislators have shown good sense in continuing many important measures to the next session. There will be ample time for their study next summer and we shall give them a series of free lectures from time to time, as opportunity offers. Our tuition fee is only two dollars a year.—*Barnwell People.*

The professional lobbyist, B. R. Tillman, had his hands full when he accepted the chairmanship of the committee appointed to overlook the Legislature. He gave up the job as a bad one and is said to have remarked on reaching home, that the only friends he had in the Legislature were the lawyers. Mr. Tillman must have been impressed with the conviction that it is more difficult to lead farmers than he once imagined. He erred in thinking that all farmers who go to the Legislature are "bob tailed," and hence he failed to lead them.—*Laurens Advertiser.*

We believe the general feeling of the people will be that the assembly has plenty of good sound timber, a little too green to be of much value in the first session, but sure to improve enough with time and experience to give good results.

There was of course, some blundering and timidity, the natural and certain result of inexperience. But the purpose of the majority of the assembly—especially in the house—evidently in accord with the sentiment and judgment of the masses of the democrats of the State. There is a decrease in the State levy and some testing and examination of leaks was made which will result in adoption of other economic measures in the future.

One of the best works of the session was the defeat of the canal appropriation. That stops a leak, and, better yet, expresses the voice of the people of the State against the participation of the State in enterprises of doubtful success and only local importance.—*Greenville News.*

The defeat of the bill known as the Columbia Canal bill asking for an appropriation of twelve thousand dollars out of the people's money, by a vote of 75 to 37 in the House of Representatives last week, is a piece of legislative work that cannot be too highly commended by the taxpayers. The canal scheme has long been looked upon as one of those cancerous enterprises fastening itself too firmly upon the treasury and giving nothing in return save promises for the future. Its advocates have succeeded year by year in deluding those who were sent to the Capital from different parts of the State into the false position of appropriating large sums for its development at the public expense, and had it not been that the advisability of making further appropriations had been adversely considered in almost every session of the country before the legislature assembled, there is no telling how much more the people of the State would have been forced to bear. Since the entering wedge against further expenditures in this direction has been driven, there is a popular feeling that the State can better afford to lose all she has appropriated that which is extremely doubtful, and that we can now with some certainty expect to escape the canal's meshes through future years. Without fear of successful contradiction we pronounce the killing of this bill the most practical and economical work so far done by the House.—*Barnwell Sentinel.*

Henry Grady's "New South."

It seems that Mr. Grady of the Constitution has made a very successful speech in New York before the New England Society. Mr. Grady, doubtless, representing what he calls the cavalier stock of the South, has rejoiced the hearts of the patriot Puritans, or the descendants thereof, in his exalted picture of the new South that has arisen, "not as a protest against the old, but because of new conditions, new adjustments, and, if you please, new ideas and aspirations."

It would seem a very ungracious task to pronounce Mr. Grady's clever trick of words a sensational humbug. We shall not so pronounce the bright and cheery speech of the Georgia editor, inasmuch as he may, perchance, have intended this after-dinner speech as after all for nothing more than a mere performance meet to the occasion. As such, it is clever enough.

But if Mr. Grady is in real earnest in his utterance we would suggest to him that it is about time to put away this old myth about the Southern cavalier. Where is there any cavalier stock in Georgia or South Carolina either for the matter of that? That there may have been one or two families that thought themselves better than the rest of their fellow colonists may be doubtless true. This, we presume, is what always existed in any society, even though it should have come out of transported convicts. The truth remains, however, that the builders of the Southern States and Southern society were plain, hard working men and women had no more to do with the cavaliers than they had to do with the Kan of Tartary.

Look back on the history of any South Carolina or Georgia family and you will find, in nine cases out of ten, if not ninety nine out of a hundred, honest, hard working, progenitors at the root.

There was, it is true, a highly aristocratic society at the South, and none in any part of the world could excel it in all the noblest qualities of a trained and well ordered establishment. But this was a self-made aristocracy that grew up on this side of the water according to its own surroundings and circumstances.

The stout-hearted colonists as they became possessed of broad acres with troops of slaves and with their

profitable crops of tobacco, rice and indigo changed into lordly proprietors from their humble beginnings. The very responsibility of their lives as the owners of numerous dependents made them put on a new social complexion. Many of these planters educated their sons abroad, all of which tended to soften the manners and quicken the intelligence of the new aristocracy. But it is a known fact that this Southern society never for a moment cottoned to the old world aristocracy. And, hence, when the revolt against the mother country took place these very men who had been educated abroad were among the first to resist the British arrogance to the last extremity.

There is no man of any large Southern experience but has seen this very social growth transpire under his own eyes. He has seen honest, worthy people beginning from nothing achieve large wealth, educate their children and take their place in the more refined circles of life as the natural result of their success. Well, this was just what transpired in the early history of these Southern States. There was no cavalier about it.

It is true there grew up in the slave owning class a chivalrous regard for the weak and the lowly, which necessarily attached to their position as the lords of the soil and as masters of other men's lives. There is a certain dignity and self-control, which fortunately for mankind, nearly always attaches to power. It is a grave historical mistake to call this society an oligarchy, as Mr. Grady would have it.

It was a strong self-made social organization, growing up to its own necessities, replenished with new men and new families and new made wealth from the beginning of the colonial establishment to the happening of the war.

It was not in the nature of things that Southern men and women, with all this strong, self-reliant blood in their veins, should have mowed in a corner over a defeat in arms, for which there was no longer any help. Common sense and the common wants of nature alike demanded otherwise. It is no marvelous thing, then, that Southern men and women should have accepted the situation with courage and gone to work as their progenitors before them had done.

It is just as well to have this thing put in its true light, for truth is always respectable, tending as it does to self respect among men.—*Columbia Register.*

The death at 2:20 o'clock yesterday morning of this prominent citizen removes from our midst another of the landmarks that have for the past few years rapidly followed each other off the stage of life upon which they have during Montgomery's most noted history, been active and well known actors.

For a long time Gen. Fair has been in ill health, and this, considered in connection with his advanced years, made his death the source of little surprise in contrast with the genuine regret at the tidings that this venerable citizen was no more.

He came to Montgomery over a half a century ago and here lived out a life eventful for the scenes that attended it and claiming the tribute of esteem and regard from those among whom it was spent. His profession was the law, to the practice of which he was admitted in his native State, South Carolina, and continued it with profit and success for several years in this city up to 1856, when he was appointed by President Buchanan as minister resident to the court of Belgium, which distinguished position he held throughout that administration.

In 1865 he was a delegate to the constitutional convention, representing Montgomery in that august assemblage of statesmen. This was his last public trust. Upon his retirement to private life he moved to his plantation in Autauga county, where he resided for years, removing later to Montgomery where he has since lived a modest, retired life, surrounded with friends and kindred.

He married Miss Wyatt of Autauga county, who preceded him to the grave six years ago. His only surviving children are a married daughter and a young son who is attending college in Tennessee.

Gen. Fair will kindly be remembered for his many excellencies of character which shone out conspicuously during a long and honorable career among those whose hearts are sad that he has been called from the busy scenes of earth to meet his reward in the eternal beyond.—*Daily Dispatch, Montgomery Ala.*

Earthquake shocks in Maryland Monday morning.

## Freight Discriminations.

From the Columbia Register.

MR. EDITOR: I wish to call attention of the Railroad Commission to a recent reduction of through rates along the line of the C. & G. R. R., which will sound the death knell to the development of Columbia as a cotton mart, and her general prosperity, unless prompt action is taken by her citizens and the railroad company, and thereby get these unjust discriminations properly adjusted, which will have to be done by reduction of the local rate to correspond with that of the through, or possibly by a reduction of the local to Columbia and the through from Columbia.

To make matters plain, I will note the rates as they now exist:

From	To	Local to Columbia	From Columbia to
Spartanburg	Union	74	33 1/2
Newberry	Union	74	32 1/2
Prosperity and Pomaria	Union	71	31
Alston and Walhalla	Union	74	35
Santee, Shelton & Lylesford	Union	63	39
Blair's, Strothers & Dawkins	Union	63	39

You will see that by adding the local to Columbia's through rate that there would be a loss of 19 1/2 points per 100 pounds, or about \$1.00 per bale to ship cotton here from Spartanburg and reship from here to Baltimore, Philadelphia or Boston, 18 1/2 points per 100 pounds against cotton here from Union, 17 points from Newberry, 15 points from Prosperity and Pomaria and 11 points from Alston and stations this side, and from Santee, Fish Dam, Shelton, Lylesford, Blair's, Strothers and Dawkins about 17 points. Now this is an unjust discrimination that should not exist for a day, and I feel sure that when this matter is once before the Commission, that its life will be of short duration and they will see that a corresponding reduction is made on the rate to Columbia so that we can make Columbia what she ought to be, the metropolis of South Carolina.

When this reduction of local is made, Columbia will grow and blossom as the rose, neglected and she will contract, wither, and to a great extent die. As this means life and prosperity, or death and decay, I trust you will be vigilant in keeping this matter before the Commission until they act and the railroad companies grant the necessary relief.

Very truly,

JASPER MILLER,  
A Popular Editor.

Brother Grady of the Atlanta Constitution made us a rattling fine speech the other night. The occasion and season were propitious. Every one was feeling happy. The Southern editor got excited, and spoke right out from the fullness of a big heart. His patriotic sentiments struck a responsive chord, and he awoke the next morning to find himself famous.

This was proper enough, but his friends at home, inspired by this national reputation made in a single night, have now put Mr. Grady in nomination for Vice-President on the Democratic ticket for 1888. We think that they are rather previous, and are positive that he has never sanctioned such a use of his name.

Mr. Grady brought us a timely message of good tidings from his patriotic brethren in the South. We received him as an ambassador rather than as a probable ruler. He will appreciate as well as another that there are great interests, grave questions and heavy responsibilities involved in the selection of the next national Democratic ticket; that there is a vast difference between post-prandial popularity and the calm, deliberate judgment of the whole people; and that the names that float up on slack water are apt to be swept away with the turn of the tide.

There is only one name for that ticket as yet which fulfills the growing demands of the people, about which the tumult of popular approval sweeps without impairing it, and against which the waves of adverse criticism beat without budging it—the name of Grover Cleveland, synonym for firmness without obstinacy, duty without fear and patriotism without humbug.

Whether it may fall to the lot of Brother Grady to be associated with such a man in 1888 we cannot tell, but we respectfully submit to all aspirants for such honors that Cleveland is the type of statesmen that the people of all sections are looking for, and that the closer they may approach to such a model the more likely they will be to fulfill the ambitions of their friends.—*New York Star.*

## A Voice from the South.

The enthusiastic reception tendered Mr. Grady upon his return to Atlanta was something more than a tribute to the eloquence and genius of the foremost editor in the South. It was also a spontaneous and hearty indorsement by Southern people of the patriotic and inspiring sentiments of his speech before the New England Society.

The occasion was one which the South is ever eager to accept for the exhibition of a thorough and fully restored spirit of loyalty to the Union, and the assurance of an entire obliteration of all traces of sectionalism and hate. The utterances of Mr. Grady were, if possible, more heartily applauded in Atlanta than in New York, though they were indistinct with a spirit of the broadest patriotism and most devoted loyalty.

But their appreciative reception throughout the country is of the greatest significance. It indicates more plainly than any labored argument could possibly do that old sectional controversies are dead; that the asides left by them are cold and can never be reanimated by the ferocious zeal even of such partisans as Blaine or Logan; and it assures the country with a voice of authority which the Maine statesman might well heed that he who would rise to eminence in the restored republic can never do so by drowning the music of peace and good will with the clash of arms and the harrowing chorus of groans.

For the first time within more than a quarter of a century South Carolina and Massachusetts not only feel one way, but will vote one way; and, next to the beneficent influence of a broad-principled and enlightened Democratic administration, this result is chiefly due to the courage and liberalism of the Gradys of the North as well as of the South.—*New York Star.*

## "An Important Discovery."

Secretary of State Leiter, within the past few days, made a very important discovery in regard to the commissions charged by his office, which the following correspondence will explain:

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,  
COLUMBIA, December 21, 1886.

Hon. James E. Earle, Attorney General—Dear Sir: I am informed that since 1876 it has been the custom of this office to charge the sum of \$3.50 for all commissions issued to State and county officers.

I have examined the law on the subject and can find no authority for a greater charge than \$3.21. Am I correct in my conclusion? As it is a matter of some interest to the people of the State, however small, I would like to have your written opinion on the subject before proceeding further.

Your early reply to this matter will greatly oblige.

Yours truly,

W. Z. LEITNER,  
Secretary of State.

To His Secretary received the following answer:

Hon. W. Z. Leiter, Secretary of State—Sir: I am directed by the Attorney General to say that he has examined the law in relation to fees to be charged for commissions, and finds the amount to be three and 21-100 dollars.

Very respectfully,  
W. M. K. BACHMAN,  
Assistant Attorney General.

It now becomes an important inquiry where the money has gone.—*Fairfield News and Herald.*

## Enough of Kansas

Horace Gilsey, colored, passed through Augusta yesterday on his way to his old home near Newberry, S. C. Now Horace is or was an emigrant. Not long ago he converted his little all into cash and started out to Arkansas to take advantage of flowery and tempting inducements held out by an agent representing a section contiguous to Little Rock, in that State. But he has come back a sadder and wiser man, and expresses his intention of going back to live and die in "Old Carolina." Further, Horace declares he will preach the truth and stem the tide of emigration from the Palmetto State. If Horace tells his woes and his trials and his disappointments, as he narrated them in this office last night while wrestling with a coal fire, of which he knew nothing, his words will be heeded. "I declar, boss, dem 'Kansas folks am de biggest story tellers. Dey done fooled me out-a-very-ting. I work hard fur dis ten year. I see goin back to Carolina—and I see gwine to stay dar too. Any nigger dreaming 'bout happy homes in de West better wake up quick and stay in Carolina."

Horace is walking back. He rode out West, but was compelled to tramp it home.—*Augusta Chronicle.*