

of Judge Simonton held that agents of liquor dealers outside the State might come into the State, take orders for liquors and ship them to citizens of the State. Encouraged by these decisions, the liquor men applied to the United States Circuit Court for greater privileges, and in the Vandercook decision were granted all they desired. In this case the same judge held that citizens of another State might import, store away and sell liquor in original unbroken packages of all sizes not less than one-half pint. This led to the opening in the State, of hundreds of private liquor houses and flooded the whole of South Carolina with whiskey. Blind tigers, furnished by "original package" dealers, began the sale of whiskey in quiet, peaceful communities, where liquor has never been sold. My efforts to enforce the dispensary law, as modified by the judge's decision, met with great difficulties. At the time Judge Simonton seemed to assume the combined prerogatives of the Executive and the Legislature of South Carolina, and undertook the enforcement of the dispensary law by the Governor, the consent of all persons connected with the enforcement of the law, were enjoined from interfering in any way with "original package" dealers, and a law enacted by the representatives of a sovereign State was practically repealed by a Federal judge.

When it was reported to me that Varz, Byrd & Co., "original package" dealers at Bamberg, were selling whiskey to drunkards, I immediately ordered the constables to seize their liquors and maintain annis, but they applied to the stock of the law, and asked that all persons acting in the name of authority be restrained from further sale of the said property. I granted, notwithstanding that they had sworn that they had bought liquor at or from the sale and that the judge held that, to the use of selling to a person, must either be a substantial reason or party buying was

E. J. Connor vs. Geo. S. McVerns county, notice horse wagons had for whiskey and to Laurens he that the drivers were and were the wagons. I and liquor seized at Laurens. I filed a bill of United States for a restraining the liquors of the bill being granted a rule requiring a temporary not be granted. I made a following effect, defendant from seize, in otherwise carry or beer in State by the more com to forthwith wines and control of

you can see have content of the "package" to sell to on public seizure was hastened at all a help Judge Si friendly re charge dispen- tized the of lit- read ex- of main- \$4,000 to seize would by did excep- es en- Judge the force, e en- corporat- of the ned a d fi- ple dis- their from ori- the om- the the ng op- ed ly ne

But as facts speak louder than words, I will give the testimony of ministers of the gospel in the State as to the effect of the dispensary law on the morals of the people and on the reduction of drunkenness among them. Out of four hundred and sixty-three answers received from the ministers of the State to questions submitted to them in a circular letter, dated October 1st, 1897, three hundred and twenty-four reported a decrease in drinking of forty-six and one-third per cent., and a corresponding decrease in drunkenness since the dispensary law went into effect. Sixty-nine reported an increase in drinking of fifty-four and three-fourths per cent. Yet, in the face of such testimony as to the good results of the system, Judge Simonton declares it is not a police measure. Let us, therefore, do what is left us, and wait for action at Washington.

**Public Printing.**  
During the year the office of public printer having been declared vacant, the committee provided for by law, consisting of the Governor and the chairmen of the committees on printing of your honorable bodies, met and elected Mr. Charles B. Calvo public printer. This committee thought the State might have been saved several thousand dollars had the act provided for, or permitted, competitive bids. The price to be paid for the work is fixed in the act and the committee found itself compelled, under the provisions of the law to make the appointment. I recommend that the act be repealed and that a committee from each of your honorable bodies be selected to let the contract for public printing at competitive prices. I further recommend that the act fix the maximum price to be paid for the work so as not to exceed the price being paid now under the existing law.

**Direct Tax.**  
There are \$8,130.79 in the State treasury to the credit of the direct tax fund, which, under an act approved 24th December, 1891, is available for public purposes. I recommend that you pass a joint resolution authorizing the State treasurer to transfer this account to the general account.

**Special Legislation.**  
The number of special statutes should be reduced by the enactment of general laws, embodying ample provisions and remedies for the relief of persons, corporations and communities. Relative to subjects of a general character and to put an end to the present flood of special legislation. As it is easier and in some cases cheaper to apply to the General Assembly for relief rather than to the courts or other tribunals provided by general law, the legislature is being, upon various excuses, subjected to constant pressure to enact special laws for the relief of individuals. Indeed, even constitutional provisions intended to limit such special legislation have often been evaded under the guise of a so-called general law. In the constitution of 1895 there are express provisions prohibiting special and local legislation by the General Assembly. Prior to 1895, during each legislative session a great deal of time was consumed in the consideration of such special legislation, at great expense to the State. It was to check this growing evil that these prohibiting provisions were introduced into the constitution. It is natural and may be praiseworthy for individual legislators to seek to advance the interests of their localities and constituencies; but such interests should be subordinated to the general public good, and such special and local legislation is evidently injurious to the public weal. Too much legislation, both general and special, has undoubtedly characterized South Carolina for the past thirty years.

**Such special and local enactments, besides being a species of class legislation, are most harmful in making it uncertain what the statute law is. It is, therefore, a wise provision of our present constitution, which prohibits local and special legislation, and it should be rigidly enforced. But, notwithstanding the constitutional inhibition, an examination of the acts passed by the General Assembly during the sessions of 1896 and 1897 will show that this use provision was evaded and that there was considerable special and local legislation. Since the adjournment of the General Assembly in 1897 an act passed during the last session has been annulled by the Supreme Court to be unconstitutional on the ground, among other things, that it was special and local**

**Confederate Records.**  
It has been particularly unfortunate that the office of State historian has been made vacant by the death of two worthy incumbents. Since the adjournment of the General Assembly the grand old Confederate soldier, General Hugh L. Farley, has passed away, before he had completed the work to which he had been assigned. I appointed Col. John P. Thomas Confederate historian, to carry on the task. You will find in the report of Colonel Thomas a detailed statement of the work already done, together with what remains to be finished, especially as to the completion of the Confederate rolls. It is the duty of the State to prepare an historical account of the part taken by the commands from this State in the great civil war and to complete the rolls. I therefore urge that provision be made for carrying on this work. To insure completion I recommend that a sum be appropriated sufficient for carrying out this undertaking; and I suggest as an inducement to its early completion that while sufficient money be allowed monthly for current expenses, the major portion be paid only upon the completion and acceptance of the work as now mapped out.

**County Government.**  
The General Assembly should give careful consideration to the matter of expenditures by county governments. The system now in force is very cumbersome, and in many counties leads to extravagance. From the representation by townships arises a tendency to reciprocal favors, and this leads to useless expenditures which, if there were no opportunity for these mutually beneficial exchanges, would be avoided. Many counties have remedied this trouble as far as possible and have made a further saving by placing their officers on fixed salaries and turning the surplus left over after paying the salary into the general county fund.

**Conclusion.**  
I desire to impress upon the members of the General Assembly the necessity for the strictest economy in the appropriation of public moneys. While unnecessary and excessive appropriations of public money should be avoided at all times, and the strictest economy consistent with good administration in every branch of the public service should be at all times enforced, there is at this time a special reason why this principle should be carefully applied. The people have endured a long period of business depression, but the present low price of cotton, our principal money crop, has caused still greater depression, and the mercantile and industrial inactivity is keenly felt by all classes. As guardians of the public interests and custodians of the public funds the paramount question at this juncture, when considering the appropriation of the people's money, should be. Can this expenditure be deferred without injury to the public interests, until business shall have resumed its normal activity?

**State Colleges.**  
The attendance at the State colleges is fully up to the average. They all appear to be doing satisfactory and careful work. During the past year Dr. Frank C. Woodward was elected president of the South Carolina College, and Prof. Henry S. Hartzog president of Clemson College. They were elected to fill vacancies occasioned by the resignations of Dr. James Woodrow, president of the South Carolina College, and Prof. E. B. Craighead, president of Clemson College. Results are proving the wisdom of the trustees in making these excellent selections.

**Phosphate Industry.**  
Only \$40,700.25 have been paid during the year into the State treasury from the phosphate mining industry. This amount, under the law, must be devoted to a sinking fund for the redemption of State bonds. You may expect a still smaller revenue from this source next year. Competition with Algeria and Florida has so reduced the price of phosphate rock that some of our miners have been forced to suspend operations. Those who are engaged in the business are mining at a loss, notwithstanding the fact that the board of phosphate commissioners reduced the royalty from 50 cents to 25 cents per ton.

**The Stinking Fund Commission.**  
The total value of the assets of the cumulative phosphate royalty sinking fund is \$363,007.56. Of this amount \$37,532.00 was loaned to counties at a rate of 5 per cent. interest per annum. The sinking fund has permanently invested in State stocks \$35,728.56. There is invested in temporary loans, under the act of February 25, 1896, and February 25, 1897, \$58,484.22. This leaves a balance of \$181,263.78, which has been deposited in bank, bearing 4 per cent. payable monthly. You can see from the above statement that under the act of 1897 only a small amount was lent to counties; while the greater part of the fund has been deposited in banks and is unsecured, except by the credit of these banks. It will also be seen that on the 31st of December, 1896, there was then loaned to the banks at 4 1/2 per cent. interest, and secured by a deposit with the State treasurer as collateral security of State Brown 4 1/2 per cent. stock, \$178,984.22, leaving only \$2,816.03 cash deposited in bank.

**On account of the prices of money the burden presses with more than upon the people, and in no more richly merit their gratitude or justify their than by judiciously to lighten this burden.**  
I have endeavored, study of the State's affairs, to make recommendations to you as proper and just. The Governor cannot make laws — to you alone is entrusted, as it should be, the power to pass bills and to change existing laws for bettering the conditions of our institutions and for reducing taxes. My recommendations are merely advisory; the responsibility for the passage or defeat of bills, introduced or recommended, lies with you. It is my desire to co-operate during the coming session, as during the past, with your respective bodies and members in the interest of the taxpayers and of our people generally; in that behalf I will at all times be pleased to consult with committees or with individual members. The responsibility for the defeat of any good measure for whatever reason shall not rest on the executive, nor shall I allow myself to be influenced in any of my actions by intimations that my measures may be defeated. Personal preference or desire shall not be indulged by me in the proposal of any measure. If they be found not subservient to the public interests, my suggestions should be ignored; if in that interest, their defeat will harm not the executive but only the people.

**THE LAW AS IT IS INTERPRETED.**  
The purchaser of a negotiable promissory note with the indorsement of a guaranty thereon is held, in Dunham vs. Peterson (N. D.), 36 L. R. A. 232, to be an indorsee within the rule protecting innocent purchasers for value before maturity. The annotation to the case reviews the decisions on the transfer of title to a note by indorsement in the form of a guaranty.

**Largest Male in the World.**  
The largest male blue whale was killed in Chicago, staying at the time, The animal was slaughtered in London, where attraction in doubtless be American men hands 1830 pounds. The dissection was done by P. Brown, found it on western his find ment, and it to an Chicago Dispatch.

**A Peculiarity of Blind Fishes.**  
The great majority of fishes change their colors to adapt themselves to their surroundings. Some fishes can make extraordinary changes; there are many that can themselves so like the rocks in which they may be, or the bottom in which they lie partly imbedded, that they are practically indistinguishable. This is a striking peculiarity of the blind fish that it does not change its colors with its surroundings, but remains always the same, and the uniform color which it thus preserves is always darker than the normal color of the other fishes of the same kind in the same waters.—New York Sun.

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**NEW UNIFORMS FOR THE ARMY.**  
Uncle Sam's Men to Be Glad in the Finest Uniforms in the World.  
The United States Army is to change its style of dress uniform. General Miles and his staff have been considering the matter for some time, and the suggestions which the General has de-

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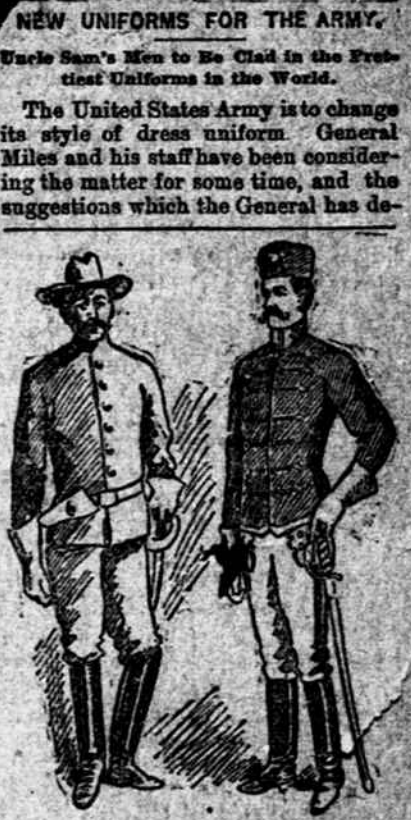
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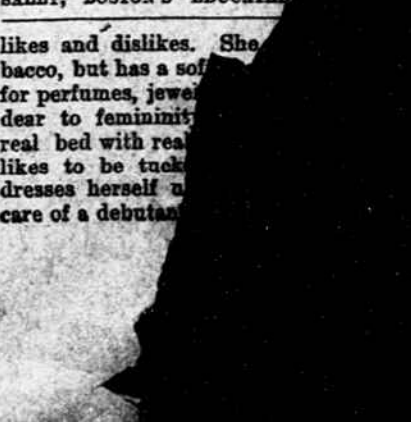
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