

The County Record.

KINGSTREE, S. C.

C. W. WOLFE,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS

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C. W. WOLFE,
Kingstree, S. C.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1907

Hung It on the Wrong Peg.

Our readers this week will perhaps wonder what has become of the defender of the "Voice from Connecticut," the expounder of the "illuminated object lesson" of what compulsory education has done for that State. We can only surmise that perhaps the Columbia State has at last discovered that it made the serious mistake of undertaking to hang its compulsory school satchel on the wrong peg. If this office had Brantley Smith and the rest of The State's magnificent mechanical outfit for just a few minutes, we could show our readers better than we have the space to tell, the exact situation. But, to make the story short, according to the United States census as presented in our last issue, the Connecticut peg was rotten and down went The State's compulsory education satchel, documents and all—and now that the big gun is silenced, we will turn our rifle in another direction.

Some writers have recently intimated that this cry for compulsory education comes from educational associations, school teachers, etc., to which the Columbia State in its editorial of May 30 very appropriately replies: "First, the advocates of compulsion are by no means confined to members of 'educational associations'—the school teachers are by no means a majority of such advocates." No, indeed! And perhaps very few of them are such advocates. But why does not the State go on and tell its readers first, where this cry for compulsory education did originate? Second, who the "majority(?)" is that is clamoring for it today? And, third, why do they clamor for it?

Today we will undertake to give our readers a glimpse at the history, agency and motive of this imported innovation, and if The State or any other newspaper or correspondent can successfully confute our statements, we will not hide the facts from our readers. If we are shown that we are mistaken we have the manhood to admit it.

The beginning of this agitation in behalf of the "poor, illiterate, white children of the South" dates back to about 1897, when the New England cotton mill industry began to feel seriously the competition of Southern cotton mills, when competent New England observers recognized the contentment and happiness of Southern operatives—their realization of the mutual interests of themselves and their employers, and their disinclination to labor unionism; and seeing that Northern capital

was steadily flowing into the textile industry of the South and feeling the embarrassment of natural disadvantages—it was then that some of the Massachusetts manufacturers threatened their operatives with a reduction in wages, alleging that competition with the cheaper labor of the South was the cause of their embarrassed condition.

Under the spur of this discussion agitators from New England and elsewhere soon appeared in the South preaching the doctrine of discontent, endeavoring to array labor against capital, organizing labor unions and threatening with strikes—and finally failing to accomplish their purpose by this method, and with the lapse of a little time to obscure the original motive, the tactics were changed and the appeal made to a public sentiment (which frequently acts without thinking on both sides of a question) to obtain legislation against "child labor." Thus it was that under the guise of humanitarianism, New England unionism laid its hand upon the Congress of the United States, and some, even in the South have allowed themselves to become the unwitting sponsors for an agitation originating elsewhere and based upon absolute material selfishness.

The design of a compulsory education law among its originators, is to obscure the real design of the "child labor" law, and the design of the "child labor" law among its originators is to remove children from the cotton mills, because with the machinery there furnished they can do the work of adults—can sometimes do more and do it better and can do it for smaller wages. The object is to get them out of the way and thus be able to demand higher wages. Of course, these agitators have no idea that a compulsory education law would ever be enforced. They know it has never been done—not even in Connecticut—but with that machinery they will see to it that their purpose is accomplished and all the other mischief will follow. The following bit of history is gathered from the Manufacturer's Record:

The Massachusetts Bureau of statistics of labor reported in the spring of 1898 that long hours and low wages were the principal advantages of the South over Massachusetts, and in the fall of that year said that Southern mills reduce the price of goods in Massachusetts by overproduction. Later when philanthropy began to cover the movement, the suggestion was made from another source that Northern mill-owners could well afford to spend \$100,000 in "raising the condition of the Southern labor," as "our great hope lies in the labor agitator, who is now slowly closing in upon the Southern mill and compelling an increase of wage."

"In September, 1901, the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, at its meeting in Washington, directed President Samuel Gompers to use every effort to secure the passage of laws in the Southern States for the abolition of child labor and for Compulsory Education (!), and President Gompers, in his testimony before the industrial commission, said that the American Federation had three specially appointed organizers in the South traveling at the expense of the Federation all through that section trying to organize workers, principally those in the textile industry. About that time, or a little earlier, correspondence from Fall River to the New York Commercial mentioned a visit to the Massachusetts mill center of fifteen operatives from the South in whom the manufacturers had been 'interested in their migrations from mill to mill,' and who have gone South within a few weeks and are doubtless now at work spreading the trades-union propaganda that has made the way of the Fall River manufacturer thorny in the past."

Thus it appears, that viewed

from the standpoint of the originators of this movement, its object is to array labor against capital and make the path of progress thorny in the South as it is in the North, which we conceive to be even worse than the Columbia State's idea of raising the people "above the level of manual labor."

But our main objection to a compulsory education law lies in the fact that the State has no right to enact a law without making provision for carrying it out. It is observed already that some who seem to be sincerely in favor of a compulsory law are advocating larger appropriations to swell the funds for the poor, needy children of the State. A special appropriation for clothing, board and books would have to be made for some, and what would be the result? What is the result with regard to the large appropriations already made for "the poor farmers' boys" in the school established by Ben Tillman "for the poor farmers' boys?" Those who need it worst get nothing, and those who do not need it get it all. Some conscientious poor people are not willing to swear three lies for \$20 twice a year, while some apparently well-to-do people go down to the county seat, hold up their hands before the three respective county officers, take the oaths, sign the papers and send their boys off to be educated on the money that some poor fellow had to pay as tax on his cotton seed meal. Where is the man who is able to spare his boy from home, that cannot raise \$20? Larger appropriations! Oh yes! But what goes with it? It is to stuff the maw of the grafter and pat the paltry perjurer on the back.

Opportunity for Young Man.

The Normal scholarships of the University of South Carolina have been raised in value. Each scholarship is worth \$100 in money, besides remission of \$40 tuition and \$18 matriculation or "term" fee. The money is paid at the rate of \$12.50 a month for eight months, to assist in meeting the necessary living expenses. There is one scholarship for each county.

The current High-School movement will greatly increase the demand for well-equipped men teachers and the salaries that they will receive.

Examination will be held Friday, July 5th, before the county Board of Education. Applicants should be at least 19 years of age, and preferably teachers. Write President Benjamin Sloan, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S. C., for blanks on which to apply before July 5th.

We are glad to note that the Board of Health is taking steps to put our town in a better sanitary condition. The report circulated by a citizen of a neighboring town a few days ago, that Kingstree was building twelve brick stores, while the town was grown up in weeds as high as one's head, was somewhat exaggerated, nevertheless there are signs of serious neglect and carelessness that we cannot longer afford to allow to exist.

Senator John Tyler Morgan, who for thirty years represented Alabama in the upper house of congress, died Tuesday night at the ripe old age of eighty-three. Senator Morgan is best known

in connection with his fight for the Nicaraguan canal, in which although he lost, he made a national reputation by the earnest and forceful presentation of his views. He maintained his opposition to the Panama canal route to the last, and the present slow rate of progress in digging the canal seems to justify Senator Morgan's opinion that the way he favored was the preferable route.

The Tailor Bird.

Sewing seems so ingenious an art that it must be reserved for the human species alone. Yet the tailor bird, the Orthotomus longicauda, and other species possess the elements of it. They place their nests in a large leaf, which they prepare to this end. With their beaks they pierce two rows of holes along the two edges of the leaf. They then pass a stout thread from one side to the other alternately. With this leaf, at first flat, they form a horn, in which they weave their nest with cotton or hair. These labors of weaving and sewing are preceded by the spinning of the thread. The bird makes it itself by twisting in its beak spiders' webs, bits of cotton and the little ends of wool.

Where Rain Never Falls.

Peru has hundreds of square miles along its coast of rainless country. In this tract rain is never known to fall from one century's end to another. Yet the region is not entirely barren of vegetation. Some parts of it indeed are comparatively fertile. This is due to the extraordinary fogs known as "garuas." They prevail every night from May to October after a summer that is sultry and extend up to a level of 1,200 feet above the sea. Above 1,200 feet rain falls.

Well Posted.

Mrs. Hayfork (in country postoffice)—Anything for me?

Postmaster—I don't see nothin'.

Mrs. Hayfork—I was expectin' a letter or post card from Aunt Spriggs tellin' what day she was comin'.

Postmaster (calling to his wife)—Did you see a post card from Mrs. Hayfork's Aunt Sally tellin' what day she was comin'?

His Wife—Yes. She's comin' on Thursday.—London Tit-Bits.

One of Byron's Eccentricities.

With reference to the story of Byron's first invitation to dinner at the house of the poet Rogers, in St. James' place, which we quoted the other day, a correspondent reminds us that it had a sequel. Byron, it will be remembered, refused every dish, saying he took nothing but biscuits and soda water and made his meal of mashed potatoes drenched with vinegar. Rogers completes the story in his table talk. "Some days after, meeting Hobhouse, I said to him, 'How long will Byron persevere in his present diet?' He replied, 'Just so long as you continue to notice it.' I did not then know what I now know to be a fact—that Byron, after leaving my house, had gone to a club in St. James' street and eaten a hearty meat supper."—London Globe.

A Judge of Music.

A concert was given at a German court in honor of some foreign prince. At its close the illustrious guest asked for a repetition of the first item on the programme. The first piece was accordingly played over again, but the visitor failed to recognize it as the one he had liked best. Suddenly the musicians fell to tuning their instruments, during which process all the company stopped their ears with the exception of the foreign monarch, who exclaimed in a rapture of delight, "That is my favorite piece!"—Fliegende Blätter.

Truly Feminine.

"I am awfully lonely without you," the woman wrote to the girl who had gone to the country. "but there's one good thing. When I put my things away now, they stay where I put them, and I know where to find them again." And the girl wrote back: "It's the same with me."—New York Press.

"To Die In the Last Ditch."

The earliest use of the expression "To die in the last ditch" was made by William of Orange, the stadtholder of the Dutch republic. While he was carrying on his apparently hopeless struggle against Louis XIV., Buckingham, who was urging him to yield, asked him whether he did not see the utter ruin of his country that was impending. "There is one certain means," replied William, "by which I can be sure never to see my country's ruin—I will die in the last ditch!"

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University of South Carolina Scholarship Examination

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA offers Scholarships in the Department of Education to one young man from each County. Each Scholarship is worth \$100 in money and \$18 matriculation or "term" fee.

Examination will be held at County seat FRIDAY, JULY 5th. Examination for admission to the University will be held at the same time.

Write for information to BENJAMIN SLOAN, President, Columbia, S. C. 6-13-4t

Rates to Jamestown Exposition.

The following rates to the Jamestown exposition, which opens next Friday, April 26, have been furnished us by the agent here:

	Season Ticket	60 Days	10 Days	7 Days
Scranton	\$15 85	\$13 25	\$12 00	\$7 50
Lake City	16 00	13 40	12 10	7 70
Cades	16 35	13 65	12 30	8 10
Kingstree	16 75	14 00	12 55	8 55
Salters	16 95	14 15	12 70	8 80
Lanes	17 20	14 40	12 85	8 90
Gourdins	17 35	14 50	12 95	8 95

Coach excursion tickets will be sold on the day prior to the opening of the exposition and will be on sale Tuesdays of each week thereafter. They are limited to seven days. The other tickets will be sold on the day prior to the opening of the exposition and will be on sale daily during the period of the exposition.

TO OUR

Friends and Customers.

We have just closed our third year's business, and take this opportunity to thank our friends for their generous patronage. Our stock is larger and more varied, and we feel sure we can save you money. Don't forget we have a nice assortment of reliable "FAVORITE" Ranges and "O K" stoves.

When in need of Sash, Doors, Blinds, Turned Work, etc., we would appreciate the privilege of giving you prices; from our increased sales of this material our prices must be Right. Remember where you buy "Anchor" Lime you get the best. If it is good paint you want, buy "Benj. Moore & Co.'s"—pure house colors.

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