

DEATH CHAIR NOW READY FOR USE.

WORK OF ELECTROCUTING PRISONERS SENTENCED TO DEATH SOON TO BEGIN.

At the last session of the General Assembly a measure was passed substituting electrocution for hanging in South Carolina in capital cases. The measure provides that all prisoners under sentence of death must pay the penalty at the State penitentiary. After several months work the death house has been completed at the State prison and the electric chair has been installed. The first prisoner to be electrocuted will be William Reed. The electrocution will be held on August 5. Reed was to have been electrocuted in July. The building was not completed, so the Governor, upon request of Capt D J Griffith, superintendent of the penitentiary, reprieved several prisoners until August. Other prisoners under sentence of death are Isaiah Butler, August 14; John Cole, August 22; Ernest Mulwee, August 30. The execution of Sam Hyde, the Anderson county man who was convicted of killing his wife, has been set for September 3. A commission of physicians was appointed to examine Hyde and make a report on his sanity. Should the report be favorable the Governor will be urged to commute the sentence to life imprisonment.

The electrocution building was erected under the supervision of the Board of Directors of the State penitentiary and Capt Griffith. The plant as completed cost about \$8,000. The new building which is 60 by 40 feet is located near the main building and is of brick. The work on the building commenced early in June and everything has been completed.

It was erected under the supervision of A W Todd, the Charleston architect. The structure is of red brick, one story high, with a white inside finish. A score of large oblong windows, just below the edge of the roof, give plenty of light to all sections.

The detention cells, six in number, are found to the right of the entrance. Each cell is well lighted, roomy and contains a toilet arrangement. Heavy iron bars are placed across the front of the cell. There is a space about two feet between the bars and a steel network. This network is placed on the outside to prevent the giving of any instrument or poison with which a prisoner condemned to death might commit suicide. All visitors to the detention ward will be accompanied by a guard.

Under the terms of the electrocution law all prisoners condemned to death must be brought to the State penitentiary not more than 20 days and not less than 2 days before the date assigned for the execution. The prisoners will be placed in the detention cells. At present there are four prisoners at the penitentiary awaiting execution. They are confined to the old prison building and will be transferred to the new building in a few days. The detention cells will be comfortably furnished. No provision has been made for heating the building. A large oil stove will probably be used in the corridors adjacent to the cells. The building and cells are so strongly and securely constructed that a guard will not be necessary. One of the guard towers is located on the front wall of the penitentiary near the new building. A full view of the death house can be had from the guard tower.

A hallway leads from the entrance through the building, the detention cells being on the right and the death warrant room, autopsy room and death room on the left. The first door to the left leads to a small room about 6 by 6. Here the condemned prisoner will be brought and the superintendent of the penitentiary will read the death warrant after which the prisoner will be led to the electrocution chamber by two guards. The electrocution chamber is about 20 by 20 feet and contains only the electric chair. The control of the electric power is placed in an

opening in the wall to the rear of the chair.

The electric chair is made of oak and copper. The chair is about the size of an ordinary rocker. The arms of the prisoner will be strapped down. Two straps will pass over the body. The ankles will be strapped to the chair and a helmet of copper will be placed over the head. The wire is tapped to the helmet. A copper band will be securely fastened to the right ankle. This band will connect with a wire that carries the current from the body to the ground. The equipment will provide for 2,000 volts to be sent through the body. The lever will be turned around to the 2,000-volt mark for 15 seconds and then reversed to the 200 mark. Should the prisoner show signs of life a second charge of 2,000 volts will be given. The electrocution room is well lighted by three large windows about 10 feet from the floor. There are also two lights above the chair. Before each execution the current will be turned on and a board covered with electric bulbs will tell whether the apparatus is working well.

Just who will apply the current has not been decided upon. The electrocution is under the direction of the superintendent of State penitentiary. Capt Griffith has this matter under consideration. It is very likely that an expert electrician will be employed to turn the current.

Adjoining the electrocution room is the autopsy room, where the executed prisoners will be examined by physicians.

Gleanings From Gourdin.

Gourdin, July 25:—Here are a few recent happenings from our part of the county.

Dr I W Graham left yesterday morning for Pawley's Island, to enjoy the sea breezes for a time.

Mr and Mrs Workman McClary were made glad a few days ago by the advent of a little stranger—a boy—in their home.

Mr Laurie Chandler left last Monday for an extended visit to Hendersonville, N C.

Misses May and Dora Graham leave tomorrow for a visit to relatives at Florence.

Mr Wayne Chandler has been on a trip to Hendersonville and other points for the past two weeks.

Misses Mary Mays of Greenville and Ida McCraery of Pendleton, who have been visiting the Misses Graham, left last week, the latter to return home and the former to visit friends at Mayesville and Blackstock.

The Misses Graham entertained delightfully in honor of their friends, Misses McCraery and Mays, while here. The occasion was an evening party at their home. The front rooms and spacious veranda were decorated with cut flowers and potted plants and hung with Japanese lanterns. The punch bowl, presided over by Misses Jeannette Davis and Dora Graham, proved very attractive, and with music, recitations and pleasant converse, the time passed all too rapidly. In a "telegraphic contest" Mr Olin Epps and Miss Vera DuRant were the successful couple. Later a sweet course, consisting of cream and cake, was served by Misses Winnie Davis, May, Maggie and Hazel Graham. Those who enjoyed the entertainment were: Misses Mary Mays of Greenville, Ida McCraery of Pendleton, Maggie Montgomery and Vera DuRant of Alcolu, Emmie Ferrell, Winnie and Jeannette Davis of Salters, Mary Palmer Mouzon and Mamie Baggett of Lanes, Mattie Graham, Fannie McKnight and Hennie Brunson; Mesdames John Chandler and P C Shirer; Messrs Olin Epps of Kingstree, Dickey Frierson of Charleston, C W Boswell, Claude Thompson, Bill and Grover Bryan, Jim and Emmett Davis of Salters, Dessie O'Brien of Heinemann, Burton Bass and Elliott McCullough of Lanes, Audie Brown, Grover Parsons, Wayne, Ross and Laurie Chandler and P C Shirer.

Mr W S Gunsalus, a farmer living near Fleming, Pa, says he has used Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy in his family for fourteen years, and that he has found it to be an excellent remedy, and takes pleasure in recommending it. For sale by all dealers.

Life Saver

In a letter from Branchland, W. Va., Mrs. Elizabeth Chapman says: "I suffered from womanly troubles nearly five years. All the doctors in the county did me no good. I took Cardui, and now I am entirely well. I feel like a new woman. Cardui saved my life! All who suffer from womanly trouble should give Cardui a trial."

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FACTS CONCERNING THE NEGRO.

SCATTERED ABOUT PROMISCUOUSLY, BUT FIGURES PROVE HE THRIVES BEST IN THE SOUTH.

Mr Thomas Jesse Jones, of the United States Bureau of Education, writes interestingly in the Southern Workman concerning the negro, drawing on the census reports for the figures to sustain his contentions. He shows that while the negro population is slowly being distributed, the great bulk of it remains persistently in the South. The percentage of negro population in the South decreased from 1900 to 1910, but there was an increase in the actual number of negroes. The negro population is greatest in Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama and South Carolina, Georgia holding the banner with a population of 1,176,987, as against 1,034,813 in 1900. Virginia's negro population increased from 660,722 in 1900 to 671,096 in 1910.

The most striking fact disclosed is the substantial increases of the more Southern States and the decreases or small increases of the border States. The three States decreasing in negro population are: Maryland, 1.2 per cent; Tennessee, 1.5 per cent, and Kentucky, 8.1 per cent.

In 1900 the negroes were 32.3 per cent of the total population of the South; in 1910 the percentage had decreased to 29.8 per cent.

Over 50 per cent of the population of Mississippi and South Carolina are negroes. Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Louisiana are over 40 per cent negro; Virginia and North Carolina are over 30 per cent negro.

The white population of the South increased 24.4 per cent during the decade. The general death rate of colored people in the registration era of the United States was about 24 per 1,000 in 1910 as against about 30 in 1900, while the death rate of the whites was about 15 per 1,000 in 1910 and 17 in 1900.

The total number of illiterates in the United States in 1900 was 5,516,693, or 7.7 per cent, as against 10.7 per cent in 1900. The white illiterates were 3,184,954, or 5 per cent, as against 6.2 per cent in 1900. The negro illiterates were 2,228,087, or 30.5 per cent, as against 44.5 per cent in 1900.

In the South the number of white illiterates was 1,210,406, or 7.1 per cent, in 1910, as against 11.7 in 1900. The negro illiterates in the South numbered 2,133,961, or 33.3 per cent, as against 48 per cent in 1900.

The Trials of a Traveler.

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