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WHAT LEGISLATURE HAS DONE

NEW LAWS BRINGING FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES BACK MOST IMPARTANT.

The people of the State, naturally, are asking what has the General Assembly accomplished at this session. Very little radical or far-reaching legislation will find its way on the statute books.

By far the most overshadowing and generally important work was the adoption of the series of bills proposed by the Manning Fire Insurance commission. It is not to be argued whether the insurgent companies were justified in withdrawing from the State after the passage of the Laney-Odom act. The fact is that the insuring public was met with a condition and not a theory and the General Assembly with the full endorsement of Governor Manning did everything that was thought necessary to insure the return of the withdrawing companies. Seven bills were presented by the commission

and of this number all of them were enacted into law with the exception of the one that related to the valued policy clause, which it was thought would only complicate the situation and was not a direct repeal of the "valued policy" law which was desired by the fire insurance interests.

There was no evidence of opposition in either the House or Senate to the desire to have the withdrawing companies return to do business in this State and the General Assembly, figuratively speaking, could not have done more than to have passed a resolution of apology. If mischief was done by the passage of the Laney-Odom act it has been completely undone by the enactments at this session of the General Assembly. Perhaps the next most important matter was the universal expression of approval of the permanent highway development in South Carolina. Spartanburg county alone voted, without a referendum, to undertake a million dollars' worth of road work in that county alone. A dozen other counties followed this example and during the

year of 1917 there will be millions and not a few dollars expended on the permanent road work of South Carolina.

To insure the permanency and the cooperation of both the federal and State authorities a highway commission bill was enacted. There were a series of propositions along this line. In the Senate the principal suggestions came from Senators Sinkler, Brice and Johnson and over on the House side the Crum-Carter Berry suggestions were those most generally considered. The situation, however, resolved itself into such wide differences that a compromise was effected in free conference. The crux of the highway commission situation is that the board will consist of five members, three being the heads of the departments of the engineering department at the University of South Carolina, Clemson and the Citadel and two to be appointed by the Governor.

The support of this board is to come by way of a license tax on all automobiles operating in the State. This tax is to range from five to ten dollars per car and is to be in lieu of city and county license fees. The major portion of the fund is to be expended in the county where the license is collected. The proportion is 80 per cent to the county and 20 to the State.

The disposition of the General Assembly was unflinching in its support of the common schools. A direct increase of \$50,000 was granted as a subsidy for the weaker schools throughout the State making the fund distributed along this line for the various grades of schools aggregate about \$400,000.

The bill looking to the establishment of an institution for the care of the feeble-minded of the State passed the House, but was not pressed in the Senate, where it would have passed had it been insisted upon, but the disposition is altogether favorable for some such work. It is possible that it might be worked out as a coordinate branch of the Florence reformatory.

The asylum policy of developments was continued. Three hundred thousand dollars has already been expended in the permanent developments and repairs and the assembly at this session made ample provision for the continuation of this humane work.

As a side issue, so to speak, of the liquor legislation was the passage of a bill which prohibits absolutely all liquor advertisements in South Carolina. The bill also prevents the sale of periodicals or magazines containing liquor advertisements and some of the outside magazines that are now on the news stands will probably have to clip these advertisements or the magazines themselves will have to get out editions suited to the States that have this law.

The warehouse situation seems to be quiescent. An appropriation of \$10,000 was made for the continued support of the system, but there seems to be no enthusiasm about it and there were frequent remarks that if the administration and members were not committed to the continuation of the system that it would have gone on the junk heap.

More legislation was enacted at this session of a local character than has ever been known before.

Speaking of the matter of the congestion of legislation there is stressed this year as much as ever the utter hopelessness of the General Assembly acting upon important matters early in the session or at least a few days before the adjournment rush. This is the fortieth day of the session and yet all of the measures of State-wide importance, or at least those that are attracting the most general attention, are still in free conference or unfinished. This

includes the highway commission bill, liquor legislation, the general appropriation bill, which incorporates the policy of the State with reference to the law enforcement fund; the supply bill, canal resolution, the general game law, the act relative to the present chief game warden, and the general county officer's salaries. All of these measures are being jammed through in the last few hours of the session and practically all of these are now in the hands of six men, members of the committees of free conference, who handle such affairs under legislative regulations, and have the right to make or unmake all that has been undertaken on the particular measures. If South Carolina holds another constitutional convention among the inhibitions of legislation ought to be a provision that no measure effecting more than one county should be enacted into law five days before the adjournment of the assembly and that the date of the ratified act should govern so as to avoid unanimous consent possibility.

There was no legislation enacted at this time with reference to the rate of interest, the taxation of mortgages, timber, inheritances, soft drinks or any other unusual propositions.

The 6 per cent law passed the House but it met with no encouragement on the Senate side.

The proposition to reduce present rates to 2 cents per mile barely got beyond the committee room. In both legislative branches it is handicapped with an unfavorable report.

There was practically no display or mention of partisan politics and factionalism was dormant. The general desire seemed to be to work for the upbuilding of the State, particularly along educational lines. The only evident factional feeling was injected in the legislation connected with the retention in office by legislative enactment of the present chief game warden.

With the permanent improvements in the State and the effort to take care of the back indebtedness, the State levy had to be increased. The total appropriation for the running of the State now aggregates three million, and it takes money to meet these bills. The General Assembly thought that the only safe and sane thing to do was to raise the revenue by direct taxes and, therefore, increased the levy to 8½ mills. The Tax Commission, it is suggested, has listed considerable property that has heretofore escaped taxation. The General Assembly has, however, declined to pass a series of bills that were urged by the Tax Commission Department as means of facilitating and increasing their usefulness. These bills remain on the Calendar for consideration next year.

A QUART-A-MONTH.

The quart-a-month bill was passed and will become law provided the Governor affixes his signature to it. This bill provides that one desiring to order whiskey shall go before the Judge of Probate and make affidavit that the liquor is for medicinal purposes.

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Let us furnish you with what you need and help you make a big crop. You will need Collars, Hames, Traces, Back Bands, Pads and many other things necessary to carry on a farm. We have it all, so let us fill your bill, then you will have the best.

Coffins and Caskets We Lead; Others Follow
Kingstree Hardware Co.

JOHNSON TO BE ELECTOCUTED.

Dillon Negro Admits on Stand Killing Rev Hugh Harrelson.

The negro John Johnson, charged with the murder of Rev Hugh Harrelson, was tried at Dillon Monday and found guilty. He was sentenced to be electrocuted on March 23. Johnson admitted on the stand that he killed Mr Harrelson, but stated that he did not do it with the intention of robbery. He testified that Mr Harrelson was attempting to arrest him. Johnson had stolen a calf a few weeks before the killing and he said it was for this crime that Mr Harrelson attempted to arrest him. Evidence was brought out to show that a warrant had never been sworn out in this particular case. Hon Julius S McInnes acted as solicitor in the case.

Gen'l Funston Dies Suddenly.

San Antonio, February 19:—Major Gen Frederick Funston, commander of the Southern Department of the United States since February, 1915, died suddenly at a hotel here tonight a few minutes after he had finished dinner. He collapsed and fell unconscious while seated in the lobby of the hotel talking with friends, and playing with little Ines Silverberg, of Des Moines, Iowa, a guest with her parents at the hotel. Death was almost instantaneous.

Federal investigation of the newspaper situation has uncovered enough evidence, it has been made known, to warrant the department of justice asking indictments of paper manufacturers for alleged anti-trust law violations. Already, it was learned, a Federal grand jury in New York is taking testimony to determine if there has been a criminal conspiracy in restraint of trade.

S. R. COCKFIELD DEAD.

Well Known Johnsonville Man Passes Away after Short Illness.

Mr S R Cockfield of Johnsonville, a well-to-do young business man, cotton buyer and merchant, died at his home last Friday afternoon after a desperate illness from ptomaine poisoning. Mr Cockfield was taken violently ill Tuesday of last week and a half dozen skilled physicians were hastily summoned, among them Dr F H McLeod, of the Florence infirmary, and everything possible was done in order that his life might be saved; but death relieved him of his sufferings Friday afternoon.

Mr Cockfield was a son of Mr and Mrs A J Cockfield of Johnsonville and was one of the best known and most beloved young business men in Williamsburg county. He carried on an extensive mercantile and farming interest in that town and was a great friend to the poor. He was married about four months ago to Miss Ellen Nixon of Little River, and she, with his father, mother, two sisters, Misses Cornelia and Blondell Cockfield, and six brothers, Dr R L and Messrs A K, Trezevant, Whilden, Jack and Cleveland Cockfield of Johnsonville, and a wide family connection, and hundreds of friends survive him to mourn his death.

The funeral services took place at old Johnsonville Methodist church, near Johnsonville, Sunday morning, 18th inst, at 11 o'clock.

Rosa Wactor, a highly respected young negro school teacher, was found dead in a cotton field about a hundred yards from her home on Saturday afternoon. The top of her head had been blown off by a discharge from a shot gun, which was lying by her side. The young woman had taken her own life.



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BUILDERS HARDWARE

AFTER YOU BUILD YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR HINGES TO BREAK, YOUR KEYS TO STICK IN YOUR LOCKS OR ANY OF YOUR BUILDER'S HARDWARE TO BE "NO GOOD." SO "BEFORE" YOU BUILD COME IN AND BUY OUR "GOOD" BUILDER'S HARDWARE. IT WILL COST BUT LITTLE MORE—MAYBE NO MORE—AND BE LOTS BETTER. BUY ALL OF YOUR HARDWARE FROM US WHENEVER YOU WANT ANY—BECAUSE OUR HARDWARE'S THE BEST; IT STANDS THE TEST.

King Hardware Company.
The Popular Hardware Store.

The man with money doesn't fear accidents or sickness.



WE NEVER KNOW WHEN WE START OUT IN THE MORNING WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US. AN ACCIDENT OR SICKNESS COULD OVERTAKE US ANY MOMENT. BUT THE MAN WITH A SNUG SUM TUCKED SAFELY AWAY IN THE BANK KNOWS HE CAN TIDE OVER WITHOUT GOING INTO DEBT OR BECOMING A BURDEN TO HIS FAMILY OR FRIENDS. IT MAKES A MAN HAPPY TO BE INDEPENDENT.
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Farmers & Merchants National Bank,
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