

commission, it would be well, I think, to instruct it to report fully also on the condition of those islands and as to the advisability of an appropriation to aid Miss Barton in relieving the suffering which is inevitable.

There is one measure of relief which is certainly demanded: These people owe taxes which they are unable to pay. The storm left their lands as bare of crops as though fire had passed over them; and the struggle with them for the present is how to live. A subsequent storm wrought equally as great havoc around Georgetown and on the Waccamaw, though there was no such great loss of life as in the previous visitation. A great number of the sufferers have appealed to me for relief in the matter of taxes, and I would recommend that the Comptroller General be allowed to suspend the collection on all property within the devastated region in Beaufort, Colleton, Berkeley and Georgetown, and to remit the taxes of all kinds where in his judgment it is proper to do so. No other course is practicable or feasible, because the territorial limits cannot be described, except in general terms, and even within these limits are many who can pay without serious injury to themselves, and the matter can be safely left to the discretion of the Comptroller General after the power has been given to him.

Miscellaneous.

I have devoted so much time and space to the three matters which I considered of paramount importance, viz: the railroad taxes, receiverships and the dispensary, that I will only deal in the briefest possible manner with the other matters of public concern.

The management of the State Lunatic Asylum and of the State Penitentiary is all that could be desired. While the State farm on the Wateree suffered severe loss by the breaking of the dam and the consequent overflow of seven hundred acres of crop by the river, the institution has been more than self-sustaining, has met payments on the property and has a large cash balance to its credit. The attention of the directors is so increased the strength and height of the dam that a such a disaster will be impossible in the future. The number of convicts in the institution shows a heavy increase, being 1,023 against 909 last November.

The number of inmates in the Asylum has remained about at the average, and the capacity of the institution is tested to its utmost. The superintendent makes a suggestion, in connection with the use of convicts, to make bricks in anticipation of the necessity for enlarging the quarters for the colored males and guarding against fire, which I think a capital idea.

I would also direct your attention to the correction of an abuse which he points out, namely: the use of the asylum by persons feigning insanity to escape criminal prosecution. Of course, it is not proposed to put insane people in the penitentiary, but they can go there with perfect propriety when they are charged with crime until insanity is satisfactorily proven.

The Adjutant and Inspector General reports that the Confederate rolls, the completion of which was provided for at your last session, will soon be as full and satisfactory as we can hope to have them. He suggests that provisions be made for their publication, so that the names of those who yielded their lives or bared their breasts to the bullets of our then enemies, in defense of home and native land, may be placed on file in enduring and accessible form. But there is something lacking, and that is a brief history of the different brigades, regiments and batteries, to show the date of enlistment, battles in which they were engaged and the part they took in the war generally. This need not be lengthy, but it will be very valuable and dear to our children; and while the State has been appropriating money of late to copy the records in the British museum bearing upon our colonial history (a work which having been begun I hope you will complete) it is meet and proper and very much to be desired that nothing be omitted in preparing data for the future historian who shall tell the story of the Lost Cause and the part Carolinians bore in it. This work could best be done, in fact could only be done, by some one of the noble veterans who participated in that second revolution which only lacked success to have given it a place in history alongside of that of the War of Independence. I therefore suggest an appropriation of \$— for this purpose, and, with your permission, will nominate for this trust and duty a man whose name is inseparably connected with the annals of the struggle, the knightly soldier, Joseph B. Kershaw.

In this connection I would mention that the sum appropriated at the last session, \$5,000, for distribution among those who were disabled or lost an arm or leg in the war, was distributed by the board in the manner prescribed, the distribution being confined to those who lost limbs. There are, however, on file in the Comptroller General's office applications for relief, which we were compelled to disallow by reason of the smallness of the fund. Many of the applicants were equally as worthy as those whose limbs are gone, and I leave it to your generosity to provide for these such aid as the State may be able to give. Many of them are well to do and do not need it. I would again urge the organization of the Confederate soldiers of the State, as recommended in my last annual message, and the entrusting to them of the pension appropriation, so that it may be distributed in proportion to the merit and necessities of the applicant, rather than upon a horizontal scale.

Conclusion.

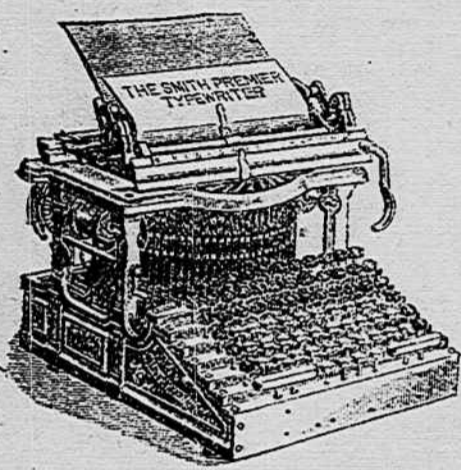
In conclusion, I beg to remind you, gentlemen, that this session of the Legislature, by reason of the fourth Tuesday falling so near the end of the month, will be shorter by a week than the average, should you adjourn at Christmas in accordance with the unwritten law. No session of the General Assembly in the history of the State has ever had to deal with more important and vital questions. In addition, you have to elect six of the eight circuit judges and one Justice of the Supreme Court. My experience and judgment have shown me that when important elections are pending the business is neglected and the legislators seem paralyzed, becoming partisans of this candidate or that, and paying to heed to matters of legislation.

I therefore urge on you to appoint a day not later than Monday, the 4th of December, for getting rid of these elections—obstructions to legislative business. The new Criminal and Civil Code has to be passed on; the dispensary law must

be amended and perfected; a wise and judicious bill reducing salaries, not the haphazard act now on its passage, should be passed; a new system of county government, simplifying and affording a greater measure of local control than now exists, is altogether desirable; and the General Assembly will in a measure confess its imbecility if it fail to provide such a law. You should overturn that edifice of wrong and oppression erected by the United States Court in the matter of receiverships, and the reclaiming of competing lines of railroads from the Richmond and Danville monopoly. All these important measures are enough and more than enough to occupy every moment of working time that will be left you; and if you could and would be wise enough to leave off the interminable, abominable waste of time and public money on petty special and local legislation, which has become a disgrace to which there seems to be no end, you would immortalize yourselves and gain the plaudits and well-done of your fellow citizens. If this General Assembly would signalize itself, it could not do better than to kill out of hand every bill of that character which may be presented, and for once devote itself to legislating for the State, pass such of the acts indicated as it may deem wise and proper, the appropriation and supply bills and go home. I can only repeat what I have said once before, that I am ready and willing at all times to furnish any facts or suggestions I may have, or lend any help that I can, for the information of members or committees; and, invoking the blessing of the Divine Ruler on your labors, and praying that He may grant you the wisdom to do the right, I feel assured that you will work wisely and well for the best interests of the State.

B. R. TILLMAN, Governor.

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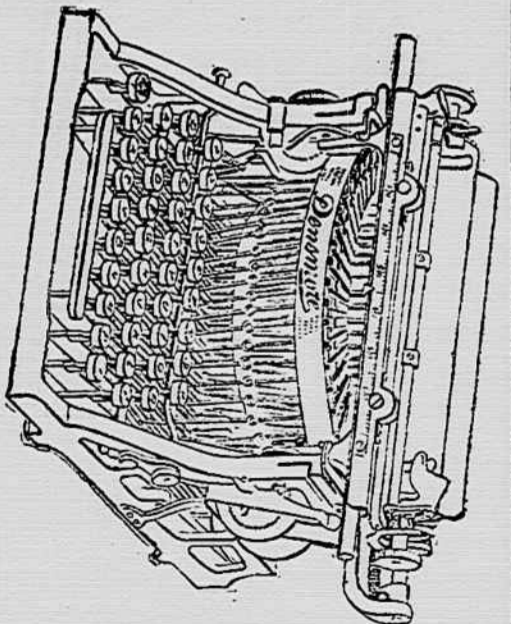
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