

**WILL IT GO TO THE COURTS.**

The war tax matter relating to the stamp on express bills of lading, has been settled for this State, so far as the railroad commissioners are concerned. They have ruled that the express companies must pay this tax and not the shippers, and this will stand unless the question is taken to the courts and the commission should be overruled.

The express people all over the country are kicking about this tax matter wherever the rulings or decisions have been adverse to them, and there is little doubt but that the whole question will finally wind up in the highest court of adjudication.

Judge Tuley, of Chicago, a judge of the State circuit of Illinois, in a case brought by Manufacturers' association, decided last week that the express companies must accept packages for shipment with the receipt duly stamped by themselves and without adding the cost of the stamp to the regular express rate. The express companies will, of course, appeal to the higher courts; for, if this decision should stand and could be enforced, the companies claim they would have to bear the whole tax, which will amount to about \$3,000,000 a year.

They don't like this idea and are making a vigorous kick against the ruling of the Chicago judge, who is accounted a very able jurist.

But what action the Southern Express company will take in regard to the recent ruling of the South Carolina railroad commissioners, is not known yet, as the commission has granted the company until the 25th instant before putting their decision into effect.

Supt. Sadler, when he appeared before the commission last week, could not speak authoritatively at that time, but his opinion was that his company would acquiesce in the ruling and would make no fight. But until the 25th comes, it cannot be told whether the express company will accept the decision of the South Carolina railroad commission or appeal to the courts for a ruling, on the question.

A copy of the following letter has been forwarded to Traffic Manager Loop of the Southern Express company by the railroad commission:

Mr. C. L. Loop, Chattanooga, Tenn.  
Dear Sir: We have received your favor of the 5th inst., also by the same mail the express tariff we requested you to issue. Allow us to thank you for your promptness in this matter.

Your Mr. Sadler had a conference with the board to-day relative to the decision of the board that the express companies should pay the war revenue tax. After a full discussion of the matter with Mr. Sadler, we could not consent to change the rule the commission had adopted and of which we had notified you in our letter of the 3d inst.

We are clearly of the opinion that the framers of the law intended the express companies to pay this tax, and we so ruled, so far as the business of South Carolina is concerned.

At the request of Mr. Sadler we extended the time for your company to adopt and put into effect the rule of this board until the 25th of August, 1898. The commission desire to express their regrets that they could not agree with the views expressed in your letter, and that their sense of public duty required them to maintain the position they have taken under our State law.

Hoping that you can agree with us in making this a final settlement of the issue and that you will adopt our rule.

By order of the board  
W. D. Evans,  
Chairman.

D. P. Dancau,  
Secretary.  
Aug. 13, 1898.

The fight between the Southern Express Company and the Railroad Commission over the stamp tax matter it seems to be prolonged, judging from the tone of a letter received yesterday from Traffic Manager Loop, of the express company.

From this letter, which is published below, it is plain to see, although there is no direct statement to that effect, that the express company does not intend to abide by the ruling of the railroad commission in requiring the company to pay for the stamps on bills of lading, and a resort to the courts now appears imminent. Here is Mr. Loop's letter:

Southern Express Company, Office of Traffic Manager, Chattanooga, Tenn., August 15, 1898.

Hon. W. D. Evans, Chairman Railroad Commission of South Carolina, Columbia, S. C.

Dear Sir: I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th inst. advising of the judgment of the railroad commission of South Carolina on the stamp tax question.

I desire to protest against the same, on the point that the State railroad commission should not undertake to pass upon the construction or application or enforcement of Federal laws fixing taxes.

I have to contend that the jurisdiction of the railroad commission is only over express rates, and that it is not the duty of a railroad commission to direct how the taxes of the United States government shall be collected.

This question is so serious to the express company that I am obliged to file this. Very truly yours,  
Chas. L. Loop,  
Traffic Manager.

**ISLAND OF PORTO RICO.**

**The Melting Loveliness of Its Tropical Landscape.**

Mr. Frederick A. Ober, late commissioner in Porto Rico of the Columbian Exposition, contributes to the August Century an illustrated article on "The Island of Porto Rico." Mr. Ober says:

In the extreme northeast rises the highest peak of the central cordillera, in the Luquillo Sierra known as "el Yunque," or "The Anvil," variously estimated at from 3,600 to 4,500 feet in height. The hills are of lesser elevation toward the west and southwest, but the whole north central country is rugged and uneven. Between the spurs from the main range lie innumerable secluded valleys, where the soil is of great fertility. The impressive features of the landscape are the rounded summits of the multitudinous hills, which leave the coast in constantly rising billows, that finally break against the cordillera vertebrae; yet all are cultivable, and cultivated to their very crests, though the higher mountain peaks are forest clad.

More than 1,300 streams, it is said, of which number perhaps 40 or 50 attain the dignity of rivers, rise in the hills and seek the coasts, most of them running northerly, though the best harbors are in the west and south. But, notwithstanding the great river flow, portions of the island in the southwest are afflicted with drought at times, owing to the precipitation of the northeast "trades" against the northern hills.

The higher hills are clothed in the exuberant and diversified vegetation of the tropical forest, where tree ferns flourish and great gum trees and mountain palms tower aloft. At lower levels are the cedar and mahogany, walnut and laurel, with many others noted for their useful woods. Throughout the island are found those trees and shrubs valuable for their gums, as the maney, guaiacum and copal, while the list of medicinal plants includes most of those, invaluable to our pharmacopoeias, which tropical America has given to the world. These are the silvestres, nature's wild children. But of cultivated plants there is no species peculiar to the tropics that does not flourish here. In the littoral levels, between the mountains and the sea, grows the sugar cane, which may be cultivated up to an altitude of 3,000 feet. It was introduced here from Santo Domingo, having been brought to America either from Spain or the Canaries. The annual yield of sugar is estimated at about 70,000 tons.

In these fertile lowlands, also, tobacco does exceedingly well, and the annual production is said to be quite 7,000,000 pounds. It may be cultivated on the hills, but the true mountain lover is the coffee, which does not do well below 600 feet, and is at its best 1,000 feet above the sea. It was first brought here from Martinique in 1722, and now yields to the extent of 17,000 tons annually. Maize, the true Indian corn, is indigenous, as is the yucca the aboriginal "staff of life," and both grow everywhere, as well as the pine apple, which is more reliable and more universal than the peach of our north temperate zone. Cotton and rice are found at nearly all elevations, the latter, which is the chief food of many laborers, being what is known as the mountain variety.

Bananas and plantains are wonderfully prolific, bearing fruit in ten months from planting. The plants virtually last sixty years, being equally long lived with the cocoa palm, which produces nuts in six or seven years, and thereafter during the space of an ordinary life, its yield being reckoned an 100 nuts a year. The annual product of bananas is given at 200,000,000, and of coconuts 3,000,000. The entire range of tropical fruits is represented here, such as the guava, lime, orange, aguacate, sapodilla and avocado pear, while all the sub-tropic vegetables may be raised, including those of the south temperate zone, such, for instance as are grown in Florida.

The mineral kingdom has not been so exhaustively exploited as the vegetable, but more than traces have been found of copper, coal and iron, as well as vast deposits of salt. The rivers at one time ran to the sea over beds of golden sand, and from the streams today (as in the neighboring island of San Domingo, where the first American gold was discovered) the natives wash out nuggets by the crude processes of that distant day when Agueynaba went prospecting with his false friend, Ponce de Leon.

There are no native quadrupeds here larger than the agouti and the armadillo, but birds are relatively numerous, with a few of fine song and some of brilliant plumage. All domestic fowls do well here, and the great pastures of the northeast and southeast support vast herds of cattle and horses, which suffice not only for the needs of the island, but are exported to all parts of the West Indies, being held in high esteem.

There are no poisonous reptiles to be feared, but insects of questionable character are too numerous for comfort. This island, indeed, were a paradise without them. Even with them the inhabitants seem to experience little trouble. The worst of these are the scorpions, centipedes,

tarantulas, wasps, mosquitos, some species of ants, ticks, chigoes and fleas. The heat of a tropical climate like that of Porto Rico, which though rarely exceeding 90 degrees, is continuous, is conducive to the breeding of insect pests of all sorts.

**The Next War.**

Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

Just as the shadow of war is departing from the United States it is thrown upon England. Of course there are always rumors of war in Europe, and it is seldom that they amount to more than a passing breath; and several times Russia and England have been reported on the edge of hostilities. Not a great many years ago there was fair chance of a fight in the vicinity of the Ameer of Afghanistan; but territorial disputes are always susceptible of peaceful settlement, and it is not easy to set two nations at each other's throat, because one of them may be encroaching on the domain of a third nation. But the present clash between England and Russia is of a different kind, and it involves a principle for which no doubt the people of England to a man would be ready to fight.

**WHAT ENGLAND THINKS**

London, Aug. 19.—The morning papers upon the proposed immense increase in the American navy. The Standard says: "Such a fleet operating from Manila as a base would be able to exercise considerable influence upon the progress of events in Chinese waters, and added to the English China squadron and the Japanese navy would make a mighty armament indeed."

The Standard suggests that this consideration may give Russia a pause.

The Daily Mail says: "The new programme is startling in its immensity. The American navy jumps to fourth place among the world's fleets. It will not long remain fourth, nor will it be long before the United States will have a policy in China."

**What the French Think.**

Paris, Aug. 19.—The American position in the far east is attracting great attention. The Soleil says: "The Americans will quadruple the value of the Philippines and Manila will become the rival of Hong Kong. The United States will have a preponderating situation in Chinese waters. There is no market they desire more eagerly than the Chinese, though they have been forestalled by other powers, they will assuredly overtake their rivals, by the rapidity of the progress in that region."

The Temps, while congratulating France upon the role of peacemaker, recognizes the fact that it is not always a good thing that a finger is between the hammer and the anvil. The Temps says: "The United States will not bear a word of intervention and France has no interest in compromising herself gratuitously with a country evidently destined for a more active part in great international affairs. It would be artless to count overmuch on Spanish gratitude. Therefore, the French watchword should be 'Messieurs Point de Zele.'"

**Mr. Carnegie's View.**

Mr. Andrew Carnegie, whose popular book, "Triumphant Democracy," gave him some standing as a thoughtful student of our institutions, has very pronounced opinions on the Philippine question. He says:

"It is the parting of the ways. We have a continent to populate and develop; there are only 23 persons to the square mile in the United States; England has 370, Belgium 571, Germany 250. A tithe of the cost of maintaining our sway over the Philippines would improve our internal waterways; deepen our harbors; build the Nicaragua canal; construct a waterway to the ocean from the great lakes; an inland canal along the Atlantic seaboard; a canal across Florida, saving 800 miles distance between New York and New Orleans; connect Lake Michigan with the Mississippi; deepen all the harbors upon the lakes; build a canal from Lake Erie to the Allegheny river; slackwater through movable dams the entire length of the Ohio river to Cairo; thoroughly improve the lower and upper Mississippi and all our seaboard harbors. All these enterprises would be as nothing in comparison to the sums required for the experiment of possessing the Philippine islands, 7,000 miles from our shores. If the object be to render our republic powerful among nations, can there be any doubt as to which policy is the better?"

These are words of wisdom. While there is considerable clamor from some politicians and newspapers for the possession of the Philippines, the longer the proposition is before us the more do we believe that the sober common sense of the country will condemn it. Mr. Carnegie is right. To take and occupy the Philippines would cost more than it would come to.—Atlanta Journal.

**Success—Worth Knowing.**

40 years' success in the South, proves Hughes' Tonic a great remedy for Chills and all Malarial Fevers. Better than Quinine. Guaranteed. Try it. At Druggists 50c. and \$1.00 bottles. x 1 Oct.

Come and see us before buying or trading. We can please you with a White-Randie.

**Mustering Volunteers Out.**

Washington, August 17.—At midnight tonight the President announced his decision to muster out of the service from 75,000 to 100,000 of the volunteers. Those to be discharged will include all the branches of the service, infantry, artillery and cavalry.

From a prominent official of the administration it is understood to be the desire of the President to ascertain the wish of the volunteer troops themselves as to remaining in the service. One or two organizations have already indicated a desire to leave the service as soon as the government can reasonably do without them. They are composed largely of business and working men, whose private interests are suffering by reason of their absence from home. So far as the interests of the government will permit, it is believed that the President, in the mustering out of the volunteers, will accommodate himself to the desires of the men.

It may be some time before the organizations to be mustered out will be designated, but the reduction in the volunteer force will be made as soon as practicable.

**The Second Regiment.**

Senator McLaurin's telegram removes all doubt as to the fate of the Second South Carolina regiment. The President has graciously extended the time and made all other concessions asked of him, one of the most important being the mustering in of companies having 80 men. This action of President McKinley redounds to his sense of justice and will be appreciated by the people of South Carolina.

The condition of affairs at Camp Fitzhugh Lee is briefly this: There are now on hand about 900 men, with recruits coming in rapidly, and appearances are favorable for the regiment being completed and mustered into service within a few days. Allowing for all conceivable mishaps, it should be ready to report for duty inside of a week.

President McKinley has silenced the charge that he has been discriminating against the South, though in strict fact, there never was any ground for such an accusation. He allows South Carolina ample time to complete her quota, for the obvious reason that he wishes no State to fail in its duty to the government.

The Second regiment will accordingly be completed and it may see service abroad. Yesterday's dispatches stated that each command would be allowed to express its preference for remaining in the service or of being mustered out. The South Carolina troops will, according to this, not be mustered out, unless they so desire.—State, August 19.

**Uncle Sam a Buccaneer.**

The Vienna press is inundated with a fresh lot of comments on the Spanish American situation.

The constitutional organ, the Reichswehr, denounces with great virulence Uncle Sam's "speculative and lucrative war business," which, it says, has proved to be a paying concern. Your Uncle Samuel is described as striking a bargain unprecedented in its brilliancy in the annals of warfare. He is said to have conquered territory larger in the aggregate than the dual empire of Austria Hungary, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, and all for a mere song, and all this, it is said, has been effected through inherent perfidy and under false pretext.

Greedy of further conquest this young Atlas of the closing of the 19th century has taken the world on his shoulders and has chased from his presence the ghost of petty militarism which for generations had haunted him as a tradesman, and, filled with a consciousness of his own might, he assumes the responsibility of an aggressive imperialism, and, armed and defiant, aspires to universal ascendancy.

**Children and Newspapers.**

From The Sun.

It is noticeable these days how many children read the newspapers. If you can tell this from their conversation, you have still plainer proof of it in the fact that so many children are to be seen reading newspapers. Youngsters who formerly spent time upon the street cars, suburban trains and ferries in doing nothing, are now quite as up to their ears in newspapers as are their elders. The war is, of course, responsible for it. In both young and old it has quickened an interest in life and in all that relates to life, and both young and old are eager for news of it. It is a curious thing to see a little fellow in knickerbockers spelling out words which he barely knows the meaning of, but which, for all that, have a new and vital significance in that they have something to do with war. Just hearing the news "read aloud" or going told about it won't do; the youngsters want to get it for themselves at first hand. It used to be that when a family party boarded a ferry boat one paper was considered ample for the crowd. Today every chick and child of them demands his individual paper, and, what's more, he sits and reads it with all the interest of the grown up.

London, August 19.—The Daily Mail's Ojessa correspondent says he bears on incontrovertible authority that Russia has opened pour parle with Spain for the cession of a coaling station in the Philippines.

**Oh, How Thankful**

**Pain Was Maddening and Hope Had Been Abandoned—Wonderful Results of Purifying the Blood.**

"A very severe pain came in my left knee, which grew worse and worse, and finally a sore broke out above the knee. It discharged a great deal and the pain from my thigh down was maddening. Large, hard, purple spots appeared on my leg. I suffered in this way for years, and gave up all hope of ever being cured. My wife was reading of a case like mine cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla, and she advised me to try it. I began taking it and when I had used a few bottles I found relief from my suffering. Oh, how thankful I am for this relief! I am stronger than I have ever been in my life. I am in the best of health, have a good appetite and am a new man altogether." J. P. MOORS, Libby, Mont.

**Hood's Sarsaparilla**  
Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier.  
Hood's Pills cure all liver ills. 25 cents.

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**PATENTS**  
TRADE MARKS, DESIGNS, COPYRIGHTS, &c.  
Anyone sending a sketch and description may quickly ascertain our opinion free whether an invention is probably patentable. Communications strictly confidential. Handbook on Patents sent free. Oldest agency for securing patents. Patents taken through Munn & Co. receive special notice, without charge, in the  
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A handsomely illustrated weekly. Largest circulation of any scientific journal. Terms, \$3 a year; four months, \$1. Sold by all newsdealers.  
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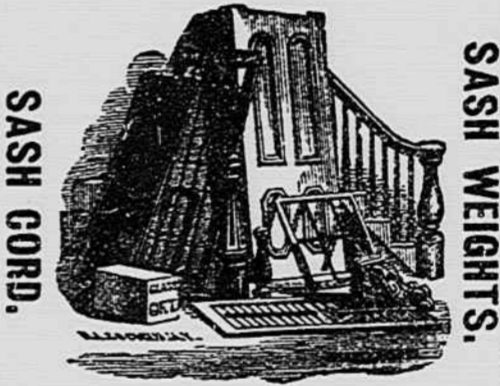
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SUMTER, S. C.  
City and County Depository

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Deposits of \$1 and upwards received. Interest allowed at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. Payable quarterly, on first days of January, April, July and October.  
W. F. B. HAYNSWORTH,  
W. F. REAME, Cashier. President.  
Jan. 13.

**JESSE A. CLIFTON, M. D.**  
—PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON—  
Office over Hughson's Drug Store.  
MONAGHAN BLOCK SUMTER, S. C.  
April 13—4t.

**The Largest and Most Complete Establishment South**  
**Geo. S. Hacker & Son,**  
SASH CORP.  
SASH WEIGHTS.  
—MANUFACTURERS OF—  
**DOORS, SASH, BLINDS,**  
**Moulding & Building Material.**  
office and Warerooms, King, opposite Charleston Street,  
CHARLESTON, S. C.  
Purchases our make, which we guarantee superior to any sold South, and thereby save money.  
**Window and Fancy Glass a Specialty**  
October 16—o



**NOTICE OF REGISTRATION.**  
THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,  
SUMTER COUNTY.  
OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR OF REGISTRATION,  
SUMTER COUNTY,  
SUMTER, S. C., May 1, 1897.  
Notice is hereby given that in accordance with an Act of the General Assembly, the books for the registration of all legally qualified voters, and for the issuing of transfers, &c., will be open at the court house, between the hours of 9 o'clock a. m. and 3 o'clock p. m., on the first Monday of each month, and for three successive days, until thirty days before the next general election. Minors who shall become of age during that period of thirty days, shall be entitled to registration before the books are closed, if otherwise qualified.  
E. F. BURROWS,  
Chairman.  
T. D. DEBOSE,  
Clerk.  
J. M. KNIGHT,  
May 18, Supervisors of Registration

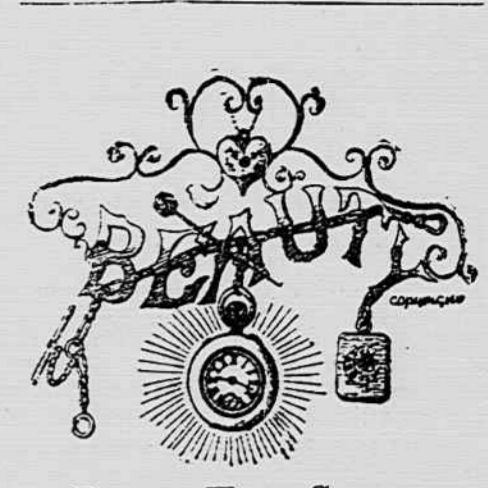
**ARE YOU NEEDING AN IRON SAFE?**

HAVING BEEN APPOINTED GENERAL AGENT for the Alpine Fire and Burglar Proof Safe Company. I am prepared to offer liberal terms to those who are in need of a good safe.  
For prices and terms address  
**J. A. RENNO,**  
Sumter, S. C.

**RISO'S CURE FOR CONSUMPTION**  
CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS.  
Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists.

**MAN WANTED.**

THE MANAGEMENT of the Equitable Life Assurance Society in this territory is desirous of securing the services of a man of character and ability to represent its interests, with Sumter as headquarters. The right man will be thoroughly educated to the science of life insurance and the art of successful soliciting. There is no business or profession, not requiring capital, which is more remunerative than a life agency conducted with energy and ability. Correspondence with men who desire to secure employment, and are ambitious to attain prominence in the profession, is invited.  
W. J. RODDEY, Manager,  
March 23—tf  
Rock Hill, S. C.



**BEAUTY HATH CHARMS**  
and all the charms which beauty likes best to don are shown in our grand display of fashionable jewelry for this season. Jewels like these would enhance the charms of the most fascinating belle, and surely no fair one would despise such brilliant aids to her beauty. Like personal loveliness, they conquer admiration on sight; they score new victories at every inspection. Those who look over our stock do not willingly stop with examination. Beauty may now be made easily irresistible by a few judicious purchases from our display of up to date jewelry.

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Jeweler and Optician,  
SIGN OF THE BIG WATCH,  
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**A. WHITE & SON,**  
**Fire Insurance Agency,**  
ESTABLISHED 1866.  
Represent, among other Companies:  
LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE,  
NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE HOME, of New York.  
UNDERWRITERS' AGENCY, N. Y.  
LANCASTER INSURANCE CO.  
Capital represented \$75,000,000.  
Feb 28

**Land Surveying.**  
MR. H. D. MOISE, will give prompt attention to calls for surveying and platting land. Can be found at his office, next door to office of Lee and Moise, Sumter, S. C.  
Nov 18.

**HONEY.**  
New Crop 1898.

Choice Extracted Honey, by the gallon or less quantity.  
For sale at my residence, or orders may be left office of the Watchman and Southron.  
**N. G. Osteen.**

**HARBY & CO.,**  
**WHOLESALE BROKERS,**  
—AND—  
**Cotton Storage Warehouse**  
PROPRIETORS.  
UP-TOWN OFFICE:  
**COURT HOUSE SQUARE.**

1,000 Tons High Grade Ammoniated Fertilizer,  
1,000 Tons Acid with Potash,  
500 Tons Dissolved Bone,  
500 Tons German Kainit,  
400 Tons C. S. Meal,  
**For Sale.**  
We are prepared to meet any and all prices for STANDARD GOODS. Get our prices before purchasing.  
Respectfully,  
**HARBY & CO.**  
Dec. 15.

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**GEO. W. STEFFENS & SON**  
Wholesale Agents, Charleston, S. C.  
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**RED SEAL CIGARS,**  
AND DOVE HAMS