

**SCHOOL CHART CERTIFICATES**

**Not Worth the Paper They are Written On.**

**SO SAYS ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL GUNTER.**

Columbia, April 8.—The school chart matter has gone beyond the school authorities in the matter of dollars and cents. Frequent and persistent applications have been received to know the legal status of the claims. It appears that a great many of the claims are now held by banks throughout the State, in fact it is said that most of the claims are held by banks, which discounted the certificates, which on the face were perfectly regular and proper. It is understood that the holders of the certificates have employed counsel to look after the collection of the claims, and it is likely that the issue will be taken to the United States court to get grown up men out of debts which they contracted and for which they signed certificates.

The following is an opinion rendered today, which is of general importance, and will probably cover all the cases referred to either the educational or the legal departments of the State government:

Columbia, April 8, 1899. Hon. J. C. McMahan, Superintendent of Education, Columbia, S. C.—Dear Sir: The communication of Mr. W. T. Smarr, referred to this office, submits this question: "If school trustees sign school warrants payable July 10, 1899, for school supplies, and the claim has been sold to a third party before it became due, and on July 10, 1899, the school district still has money to its credit, can the third party collect same, when protest has been put in for the claim so sold?"

Having already expressed the opinion that the action of school trustees in issuing warrants to be paid out of next year's funds is ultra vires, and that the warrants so issued are void, it follows that the warrants are void it matters not in whose hands they are. The paper purporting to be a warrant is worthless, as it represents nothing. Its invalidity is expressed on the face of the paper, and persons buying it are thus advised; the trustees having no authority to the warrants, the mere fact that it has passed into the hands of a third party can no more validate the warrant than if it had been drawn on the road fund of the county.

It is stated that the warrant is drawn on a district that will have a balance to carry over to the next year sufficient to pay the warrant. Under the law (Section 52, school law of 1896,) which provides that the county treasurers shall carry forward all sums unexpended to the next fiscal year and credit the same to the district for which it was appropriated, it loses all connection with this year's funds, is credited and merged in the next, and can be expended for next year's debts only.

Your correspondent desires to know if a board of trustees can employ an attorney to fight the payment of claims for school charts, and pay him out of the school funds apportioned for their district. I am inclined to think that they have that authority. If an action were brought against the board of trustees involving the educational interests of the district, they would be compelled to employ an attorney to protect the interests of the schools, or probably allow the district to be ruined. It cannot be reasonably contended that they should pay an attorney out of their own pockets, for this would mean usually that, in spite of the ordinary patriotism, the district would be unrepresented. If then they have power to employ counsel to defend, I see no reason why they should not have power to employ an attorney to bring an action, or for other purposes to protect the school interests.

The question is asked, what kind of notice should be served on the treasurer to prevent him from paying the warrants in question? If the warrants are illegal no formal notice is necessary, as the treasurer is not likely to pay an illegal warrant. As a matter of policy, however, it would be well to notify him of the condition of affairs. Yours truly, U. X. Gunter, Jr., Assistant Attorney General.

Columbus, Ohio, April 8.—The trees which are to mark the graves of the Confederate dead at Camp Chase, which was used as a prison as well as a station for Federal troops, were planted today. A party of ex-Confederates, members of their local organization, planted the trees which were marked to show the State from which they came.

Greenville, April 8.—Mrs. Corrie Bishop committed suicide about 11 o'clock last night, drowning herself in the reservoir of the Poe Cotton Mills. She left her home in her night clothes, but was not missed for some time. An alarm was given and searching parties started out, but her body was not found until early this morning. Her husband was employed at Poe Mill and both were excellent people. Her mind was unbalanced some time ago, but recently she was apparently all right. She was 29 years old and leaves two children.

**"SAILOR HAS NO POLITICS."**

**DEWEY ON THE MATTER OF THE PRESIDENCY.**

New York, April 9.—Admiral Dewey has given to the Manila correspondent of Leslie Weekly an interview regarding the suggestion that the admiral be made a candidate for the presidency next year. The admiral said, as to his politics: "I am a sailor. A sailor has no politics. The administration is his party and, Republican or Democrat, it makes no difference. Then, again, I come from Vermont and you know what that means. To be anything but a Republican in Vermont is to be a man without a party. My flag lieutenant comes from Georgia. He tells me that to be anything but a Democrat in the south is to be nobody. If I lived south I would probably be a Democrat."

"Have you ever voted?" the correspondent asked. "Yes, years ago; but my vote was usually influenced by personal preference or local conditions. I am not a politician, have never held political office and am totally ignorant of party intrigues and affiliations."

Admiral Dewey said that neither by vocation, disposition, education or training was he capacitated to fill the presidency. He said that he was too well along in life to consider such a possibility. His health would not admit it. All his life's work was in different lines of effect and that, while the kindness and enthusiasm of his friends were grateful to him and the generous tributes of the American people were dear to him, he could not and would not be a candidate for the presidency of the United States under any conditions.

**Winding up the War.**

Washington, April 8.—The exchange of ratifications of the treaty of peace between Spain and the United States, signed at Paris, will probably take place in this city next week, and that ceremony will be followed by a proclamation by President McKinley officially announcing the close of the war with Spain and the resumption of friendly relations, commercial and otherwise, between the two countries.

The Spanish copy of the treaty, which was signed by the Queen Regent March 17, is expected to reach here on Monday, and the arrangements of formalities attending the exchange of ratifications will be promptly perfected. Secretary Hay has been officially advised of the forwarding of the Spanish treaty to the French ambassador at Washington. The exchange of ratifications will be followed promptly by the payment of \$20,000,000 to the Spanish Government on account of the cession of the Philippine Islands to the United States.

**EX-JUSTICE STEPHEN J. FIELD DEAD.**

Washington, April 9.—Justice Stephen J. Field, of the United States supreme court, retired, died at his home on Capital Hill, in this city, at 6:30 o'clock this evening of kidney complications. About his bedside were his wife and her sister, Mrs. J. Condit Smith, Mr. Justice David J. Brewer, his nephew; Mrs. Edgerton of California; Mr. Linton, his private secretary; the Rev. Ward M. Mott, rector of the Church of the Advent, and the family servants. He had been unconscious since Saturday morning, and death came painlessly. About two weeks ago he took a longer ride than usual in an open carriage and contracted a severe cold, which rapidly developed kidney troubles which, with old age, brought his end.

**AN AMERICAN EXPEDITION AGAINST SANTA CRUZ.**

Manila, April 9, 9:35 a. m.—At nightfall last Gen. Lawton and King launched an expedition of three gunboats with 1,500 picked men in canoes in tow of the gunboats. The object of the expedition is to cross the lake, capture Santa Cruz and sweep the country to the south.

The expedition which embarked at San Pedro Macati, consists of eight companies of the Fourteenth infantry, three companies of the Fourth cavalry, four of the North Dakota volunteers, four of the Idaho volunteers, two mounted guns and 2,000 sharpshooters, of the Fourteenth infantry. At the mouth of the Pasig river the men will be transferred from the canoes to the three gunboats Lagunda de Bay, Cesto and Napinda.

Santa Cruz the objective point of the expedition, is at the extreme of the lake.

**CASTORIA**  
For Infants and Children.  
The Kind You Have Always Bought  
Bears the Signature of *Wm. D. Galt*

**Pitched Battle Fought on the Streets of Brunson.**

Brunson, S. C., April 9.—Last night, at about 9 o'clock, a fusillade of pistol shots in rapid succession was heard, and it was soon developed that a pitched battle was being fought in the street between James Preacher, Charlie Preacher and Arren Preacher, brothers, on the one side, and George Ried, Mack Ried, James Ried, brothers, and Joseph Connelly, on the other.

As a result Geo. Ried is dead, Mack Ried is probably fatally wounded, Joseph Connelly is seriously wounded and James Preacher slightly wounded in the hand.

It appears that a negro farm hand employed by George Reid was subsequently employed by the Preachers and bad feeling was engendered thereby. Yesterday evening the Rieds went to the Preacher residence on this matter and some hot words were passed. Later in the night the two parties met at the busiest corner in the town and an altercation ensued between George Ried and James Preacher, and in an instant weapons were drawn and a general fusillade of about 30 or 40 shots followed. The streets being crowded it is miraculous that no bystanders were injured.

The fire of the Preachers seems to have been principally directed on George Ried. He received nine wounds. Notwithstanding his many wounds, he lived until this morning.

All the parties are men with families except Charlie and Arren Preacher. George Ried leaves a wife and child. Charlie and Arren Preacher are mere boys the latter not yet 20 years of age.

The coroner's jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death by gunshot wounds at the hands of James and Arren Preacher.

As a sequel to the fight Ulmer Newton, a respected and orderly colored citizen, was accidentally killed. Hearing the firing and thinking the policeman was being killed, he seized his pistol and started to the scene, and on arriving he met his son, Wm. Newton, who, thinking his father would get in trouble, attempted to disarm him. In the attempt the weapon was discharged, killing the father instantly.

James Preacher is the son-in-law of Col. Lawrence W. Youmans, the largest planter in this section, and prominent in State politics. The Preachers have surrendered to the sheriff.

**McKinley Working For a Second Term.**

**BAD BEEF DENOUNCED BY 147 OFFICERS.**

Washington, D. C., April 10.—It is daily becoming plainer to close observers that Mr. McKinley and his advisers do not regard next year's campaign as a republican walk over. They are diligently studying ways and means for corraling electoral votes that they consider doubtful. The trip that Mr. McKinley is now arranging to make this summer to the Pacific coast in one of the ways that has been decided upon. They do not expect to be able to carry Delaware, Maryland, or Kentucky again, but they hope for Kansas and Nebraska, both of which states are likely to be visited on Mr. McKinley's western trip. They are also beginning to realize that some sort of a bluff against trusts must be made. Representative Landis of Ind., has come to Washington especially to urge upon the administration the necessity of doing something to convince the voters of the middle west that the administration is antagonistic to the trusts. Mr. Landis has done some very plain talking about the danger of the republicans party, and it is evident that he has frightened some of the administration men.

Attorney General Griggs, doubtless acting under orders from McKinley, has made a play to shift the responsibility for his recent queer letter about trusts from the shoulders of the administration, by proceeding against the Chesapeake and Ohio Association, generally known as the soft coal trust, under the Sherman anti-trust law. The suit was instituted in Cincinnati, and will be directed by the Solicitor General of the U. S. The public will watch the prosecution of this case closely, owing to the Attorney General having so recently stated, in writing, that trusts could not be reached by Federal laws.

Evidently Admiral Dewey isn't one of those who believes the end of the Philippine troubles to be in sight. Of course he is too diplomatic to discuss such a question where his opinion would be likely to get out, but when he cabled the navy department to send him six months engineering supplies for his fleet, every employe of that department knew that it was just as though he had cabled that it would not, in his opinion be safe to materially reduce the strength of the fleet at Manila for sometime to come.

The latest Philippine news seems to justify the opinion of those who believe that the fighting over there is likely to go on for an indefinite time. Gen. Lawton has started on a campaign with a picked force, with the intention of trying to run down the Filipinos. Democrats are not the only ones who regard the Philippines, as an undesirable possession. Representative Steele of Indianapolis a staunch supporter of the administration, who passed through Washington a day or two ago, said of

them: "So far as I am concerned, I would like to trade the Philippine islands for a yellow dog, and then kill the dog, if there were nothing else involved but possession of the islands."

In naming one of the new battleships Georgia, although no petition had been sent from that State, while they had been sent from a dozen other States, Mr. McKinley is said to have been actuated solely by a desire to show his appreciation of the courtesy with which he was treated during his recent visit to that State. This is creditable alike to the president and to the people of Georgia. The other names chosen were, for battleships—Pennsylvania and New Jersey; for armored cruisers—West Virginia, Nebraska, and California; for ordinary cruisers—Denver, Des Moines, Chattanooga, Galveston, Tacoma, and Cleveland.

After taking several days to consider the matter, the Military Court of Inquiry wisely decided to admit as evidence the reports submitted to General Miles on the beef issued, by 147 officers who were in Cuba or Porto Rico. Just to give an idea of the nature of these reports, the following phrases, each from a different officer's report, are quoted: "A miserable apology for food." "No more unpalatable food could be issued." "An unsuitable article of food." "A disgusting failure." "It was nauseating." "Prefer going without meat to eating it." "Was soft, watery, insipid and unsatisfactory to the men." "Was stringy, tough and unpalatable." "Tasteless, and the men would not eat it." "Caused a great deal of sickness, and as a ration was a failure." "Was unfit for use and many of the men said it had been doped." "Was not fit to be issued." "Was utterly unfit as an article of diet." "Hungry men left it on the ground." "The sight of it was enough to turn the stomach." "Was not fit for consumption." "Was openly condemned by the men and generally thrown away." "Was just as bad as possible, short of being rotten." "It produced disordered stomachs." There was a whole lot more of the same sort, but this will do for a sample.

**Proceedings in Bankruptcy.**

Capt. A. E. Hutchison of our city was adjudged a bankrupt on his own petition which was filed in the U. S. District Court in Charleston by W. J. Cherry, Esq., on Monday last. The order was signed that morning by Judge Brawley.

Capt. Hutchison is president of the Rock Hill Cotton Factory, which is now in the hands of a receiver. His liabilities, amounting to \$90,855, are on account of endorsements for the factory, not a dollar of the amount being his individual indebtedness. His assets are placed at about \$58,000. It is expected, however, that the amount will be materially increased by the sale of the factory property.

This misfortune falls hard upon Captain Hutchison, who, with large means, has been one of the most liberal, most unselfish as well as one of the most accommodating men that has ever lived in this community. Since the factory was organized in 1881 he has been its president and has given it his individual attention, but for several years it has not been a paying enterprise. He has kept the wheels turning by contributing of his private means and by making such extended personal endorsement of the mill's obligations, which the mill could not meet, that he has been impelled to seek relief in bankruptcy, a recourse very galling to him, but there appeared no other alternative.

This community sympathizes very deeply with Captain Hutchison in his misfortune.—Rock Hill Herald.

**A MISTRIAL ORDERED IN THE MEETZE MURDER CASE.**

Columbia, April 9.—There was considerable conjecture this morning as to what the verdict in the Meetze case would be. The jury remained out all last night, and did not come to any conclusion. They then came into court, which was convened especially to receive their verdict, and the foreman stated that they had failed to come to any conclusion, and could not possibly agree upon a verdict. Judge Watts ordered a mistrial to be entered, and discharged them.

There are several rumors as to how the jury stood. One of the jurors stated that last night the ballot was as follows: Five for murder, five for manslaughter, and two for acquittal, while this morning they all stood for manslaughter, except one, who was for acquittal.

Another rumor is that they were seven for manslaughter and five for acquittal: while lastly the statement comes from a juror that the ballot stood three for manslaughter and nine for acquittal.

Meetze has been remanded to jail. His counsel desires that the new trial come off this week, and has decided not to ask for bail at present.

People were divided in opinion as to the result of the trial. A great many expected an acquittal and some thought that a verdict of manslaughter would be brought in. But the mistrial does not seem to create much surprise.

The argument as to the new trial will probably be heard tomorrow. It was pointed out today by Mr. Johnson that the court could not consider the matter of a new trial today.—Columbia cor. News and Courier.

**THE LAKE CITY TRIAL.**

**A Jury of White Men Secured.**

Charleston, April 10.—Eleven of the alleged Lake City lynchers were placed on trial in the United States circuit court today. The case against J. P. Newham and Early P. Lee, the men who turned state's evidence, was dropped by the request of the district attorney, and this accounts for the fact that 11 instead of 13 men are now on trial.

The hearing to day occupied seven hours, much of which time was taken up with reading and rereading the indictment and in arguing technical questions raised by the defense.

At the very outset W. St. Julien Jervy, of counsel for the prisoners, sought to enter a demurrer to the indictment. He claimed there was a multiplicity of crimes charged in the counts and that the circuit court had no jurisdiction under the statute. Assistant District Attorney Cochran and Gen. Barber replied for the defense, and the court overruled the demurrer.

After a technical objection to the jury panel had been disposed of the following jurors were drawn and sworn: M. B. Murphy, Union; W. A. Calboun, Barnwell; S. T. Craig, Anderson; McLeod Hutson, Beaufort; C. H. Carlisle, Sparta; A. L. Kearne, Florence; C. A. Bowman, Bamberg; W. A. Hill, Newberry; W. A. Tatem, Hampton; W. R. Price, Pickens; B. F. Davis, Marion, and J. W. McCullough, Greenville.

The defense exercised its right to challenge six times, four of the men excluded being negroes. The jury as it stands is composed of white men of means and standing in the several counties from which they come.

After a recess of an hour the entire afternoon session of the court was taken up with another reading of the indictment together with a statement made by District Attorney Lathrop. He rehearsed at length the facts connected with the killing of Baker and outlined the manner in which he would seek to fix the crime upon the prisoners at the bar. The talking of testimony will begin tomorrow morning.

**SMALLPOX SITUATION.**

Gov. Ellerbe has received a letter from Dr. Evans in which he says that smallpox is very prevalent in counties adjoining the Savannah river, including Aiken and Barnwell. There are 175 cases in and around Parkville, and there is much suffering. He recommends compulsory vaccination and that Dr. P. W. Bacot be appointed health officer for the Savannah valley section. He says that out of 300 cases about Mayesville there are only two now, and that the epidemic in the State will soon be wiped out.

**REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK, OF SUMTER, S. C.,**

At Sumter, in the State of South Carolina, at the close of business, April 5th, 1899.

RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts,	\$168,681 93
Overdrafts, secured,	2,441 81
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation,	18,750 00
Premiums on U. S. Bonds,	1,500 00
Stocks, securities, etc.,	9,646 35
Banking house, furniture and fixtures,	5,000 00
Other real estate and mortgages owned,	10,544 95
Due from State Banks and Bankers,	8,176 57
Due from approved reserve agents,	1,314 69
Fractional paper, currency, nickels and cents,	173 33
Lawful Money Reserve in Bank, viz:	
Specie,	14,315 25
Legal-tender notes,	8,912 00
Redemption fund with U. S. Treas'r (5 per cent of circulation,)	843 75
Total,	\$247,903 63

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock paid in,	75,000 00
Surplus fund,	15,000 00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid,	6,642 56
National bank notes outstanding,	16,875 00
Due to other National Banks,	1,820 34
Due to State Banks and Bankers,	914 13
Dividends unpaid,	4 00
Individual deposits subject to check,	131,647 60
Total,	\$247,903 63

State of South Carolina, } SS.  
County of Sumter, }  
I, L. S. CARSON, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
L. S. CARSON, Cashier.  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of April, 1899.  
J. E. GAILLARD,  
Notary Public for S. C.

Correct—Attest:  
R. M. WALLACE,  
J. N. REID,  
R. D. LEE,  
April 12, 1899.

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**STATE, CITY AND COUNTY DEPOSITORY, SUMTER, S. C.**

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**Leaven**

is the latest advance in baking preparations, and if you don't use it you should.

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because it will make biscuit just right every time. No more yellow spots or soda taste.

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because it is half as strong again and one heaping teaspoonful will do the work of two rounded teaspoonfuls of the best baking powder ever made.

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but is so prepared that with ordinary care it will retain its full strength for years. We do not have to pack it in tin cans like baking powder, and this saving enables us to give you better value for your money than you ever had before.

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**Digests what you eat.**  
It artificially digests the food and aids Nature in strengthening and reconstructing the exhausted digestive organs. It is the latest discovered digestant and tonic. No other preparation can approach it in efficiency. It instantly relieves and permanently cures Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Heartburn, Flatulence, Sour Stomach, Nausea, Sick Headache, Gastralgia, Cramps, and all other results of imperfect digestion.  
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