

THE GONZALES INQUEST.

The Shooting Was Without Notice and Unprovoked.

TESTIMONY TAKEN BY CORONER.

List of the Members of the Coroner's Jury.

Counsel for the State and for James Tillman Present, but do not Take Part in the Examination of Witnesses.

Columbia, January 22.—"We, the jury, find that the deceased, N. G. Gonzales, came to his death from a gunshot wound inflicted by the hand of James H. Tillman, on the 15th day of January, A. D., 1903."

This is the verdict of the jury of inquest that inquired into the cause of the death of Mr. Gonzales. The jury was made up as follows: Allen Jones, foreman; Thomas Agnew, G. W. Floyd, Joseph H. Epstein, T. W. Robinson, P. H. Lachicotte, W. J. Keenan, J. W. Gibbs, J. M. Daniels, E. B. Rawls, W. D. Love, J. L. Shull, L. T. Levin and E. B. Clark.

There were about a hundred citizens in the Court room. The coroner's inquest is simply to inquire into the cause of death and not to try the merits of the case. Coroner Green, therefore, did not undertake to go into minutiae of the case, but simply took the evidence of a few who were most familiar with the case.

Solicitor Thurmond was present, but took no part in the inquiry, and Gen. W. Duncan Bellinger, who retires from the Attorney General's office, was present as counsel engaged for the prosecution. Mr. Cole L. Blease was the only counsel for Col. Tillman present. None of the counsel had anything to say and the inquiry was conducted solely by Coroner Green.

There is no need to comment on the evidence that was offered. It is plain enough and the effort of this correspondent has always been to give facts.

The large revolver and the magazine pistol which did the fatal work were exhibited in evidence, and the magazine pistol attracted much attention.

The most striking and direct evidence taken tonight was that of Senator Thomas Talbird, who was walking with Col. James H. Tillman when he fired into Mr. Gonzales. His testimony is brief and is as follows:

Thomas Talbird, sworn: Coroner Green: "Mr. Talbird, you are a Senator?" "Yes, sir."

"From what county?" "Beaufort."

Please state to Mr. Foreman and the gentlemen of the jury what you know about this matter.

Senator Talbird: "Governor Tillman and myself started down from the State House. Governor Tillman was in the middle, Senator Brown was on the inside and I was on the outside. When we got opposite the transfer station I saw Mr. Gonzales approaching, coming in the direction as if going up the street. (Called down the street in Columbia.) We were going down and we were meeting him. I did not see him until he was in about ten or thirteen feet of us. He had on his overcoat, buttoned up, and his hands in the pockets of his overcoat."

"In his overcoat pocket?" "Yes, sir, both hands in his pockets. When he approached a little nearer I heard Governor Tillman say: 'How are you, Mr. Gonzales, or something to that effect. Mr. Gonzales without paying any attention to the remark, obliged to the left, as if to pass us on the inside. I did not notice him any further until he got nearly on a line with us and I heard the remark uttered by Governor Tillman, 'I received your message, and (snapping fingers) the shot was fired almost simultaneously with the remark. I then rushed across the sidewalk to Mr. Gonzales. I said: 'This thing must stop.' Got up to his side. My face was turned to him and my back was to Governor Tillman, who, I think went off into the gutter; he went in that direction. Mr. Gonzales then said, 'If he made a step forward'—I am not sure as to that, but that is my impression—and said: 'Here I am finish me.' I then looked across the street. I saw Governor Tillman walking across the street with a pistol in his hand, pointing down; pistol in his right hand with his eyes turned in our direction. Mr. Gonzales then turned and walked down Meeting street and turned up Gervais street. I with him. After he got on the corner he turned around and said: 'I am shot in the stomach send for a doctor.' I remarked that—"

"Did you say Meeting street or Main street?" "Oh, Main street, I suppose; I meant to say Main street. 'I am shot in the stomach send for a doctor.' I remarked: 'I do not think you are shot in the stomach.' I said, 'I do not think so.' He said, 'Yes, I am shot in the stomach: send for a doctor.' Two gentlemen came up, one on each side of him; took his arm and walked him down to his office."

"Mr. Talbird, about what time in the day was this?" "I would say it was in the neighborhood of 2 o'clock. It may have been a little before or a little after."

Juror: "Senator Talbird, you say you saw Mr. Gonzales with his hands in his overcoat pockets?"

Juror: "Did you see any part of his hand outside of his coat pocket?" "I do not particularly notice that; I did not notice it. I was looking more at his face than at his hands. I was not expecting anything."

Juror: "When Mr. Tillman said, 'Howdy do, Mr. Gonzales, he walked on?'"

"He took no notice of it; he obliged to the left."

Juror: "At that time were you still on the outside?"

"Yes, sir, I was still on the outside."

Juror: "He was next to Mr. Gonzales—Governor Tillman was next to Mr. Gonzales?"

"Of course, I do not know. My impression at the time was that Senator Brown was on the inside, but he claims that he dropped back."

Juror: "Senator, when you say Governor Tillman, do you mean Lieutenant Governor Tillman—James H. Tillman?"

"Yes, sir."

"Have you ever noticed Mr. Gonzales walking along the street at other times with his hands in his pockets—that is his habit?"

"I think that is his habit, sir, but I do not recollect. That is the first time I have met him since I have been up here."

Juror: "Senator, one of the jurors wants to know, when you turned around and looked at Mr. Gonzales, did he still have his hands in his pockets?"

"That is my impression."

Juror: "After the pistol was fired?"

"After the pistol was fired. Of course, that is an impression."

Juror: "Did you hear any remark of Mr. Gonzales after the shot?" "He did not make any remark."

The first witness in regular order was Clerk of Court J. Frost Walker, who was sworn.

Coroner Green: "Mr. Walker, what position do you hold in Richland County?"

"Clerk of the Circuit Court."

"Have any pistols been turned over to you?"

"They have."

"Where did you get them from?"

"The sheriff delivered them to me, sir; said they were pistols that had been surrendered by Col. Tillman."

"It is customary is it not, for you to have those in your possession?"

"They are usually turned over to me."

"Show them to the jury."

(Mr. Walker shows pistols to the jury and explains their working.)

"That pistol is loaded."

Juror: "That is an ordinary Colt's pistol?"

"Yes, sir, and it is loaded all around."

The Coroner: "Mr. Walker, what was the condition of that pistol when it was first received by you?"

"When it was handed to me it was loaded. There were five balls in the magazine and there was one ball in the chamber of the pistol, which I took out."

"When the magazine pistol was handed to you it was loaded?"

"Yes, sir."

"How came you to take them out?"

"I took all out. I took five out of the magazine and one out of the chamber."

"Mr. Walker, was the ball turned over to you?"

"A ball that had been shot from a pistol was turned over to me by the sheriff."

"Is this the ball, Mr. Walker?"

"That is the ball, sir."

"You do not know where that ball came from, do you?"

"I do not know where it came from."

"Well, Mr. Walker, I will ask you to explain that to the jury."

"Yes, sir."

(Mr. Walker explains to the jury.)

Juror: "How is that pistol fired?"

"I cannot tell. There was no empty shell in it when I opened it."

Juror: "On what date were they turned over?"

"Turned over to me on the day after the shooting."

After Mr. Walker gave his evidence the next witness was Senator George W. Brown, of Darlington, who swore:

"After the session of the Senate on this day it occurred—"

"You remember the date?"

"My recollection of it is Thursday, the 15th, but I am not sure. I think so. I went to the judiciary meeting for an hour perhaps. After that meeting was over I passed through the corridor of the State House to the engrossing department, having some business there. On the way to the engrossing department I saw Senator Talbird in the corridor, and I think I told him to wait for me. I was going down. I was in the engrossing department, but a short time and went over to the House to see if one of my House colleagues who rooms with me had gone down, and found that he had gone. This is practically unimportant."

"You went over to the House for a few moments?"

"Yes, sir; and when I came back through the corridor, Senator Talbird joined me, and as we got to the steps, coming down to the second floor, Senator Talbird joined us."

Juror: "Senator Talbird, or Governor Tillman?"

"Governor Tillman I should say. We walked down together. When we reached the first building on the right—on the right side of Main street coming down, or up, whichever you may call it—coming toward the business portion of the town. I heard some one behind and turned my head and recognized a lady friend of mine, whom I had known all my life."

"Was that on the right hand side of the street walking this way?"

"On the right hand side, and as I did not have any special engagement with the other gentlemen did not even excuse myself. When I recognized her I turned my body with the view of dropping back and walking with her. My body had completely turned and I had probably taken one step towards her when the pistol fired. I had no idea who had fired the pistol. I had not seen Mr. Gonzales at all. This lady friend of mine was terrified by it and began to run out in the middle of the street. My entire attention was directed to her. I did not even look back. I called to her, three or four times perhaps, to come to me and was at the same time advancing toward her. When I got up to her she was out in the middle of the street. I took her by the arm and carried her on the opposite side of the sidewalk. When I got on the sidewalk, then, for the first time, I turned my head and looked to see if I could find what had happened—what the trouble was. Up to that time, I had no idea—well, I had no idea at all, nothing to suggest what had happened. When I got her on the opposite side of the street she was still in a very high state of excitement and I looked around, as I stated, to see if I could find what this pistol-firing meant, because I had seen no pistol. I saw Mr. Gonzales across the street—I think perhaps he was a foot or two round the corner—with two gentlemen, one on each side, holding him. Of course, I did not know what that meant, and it is not for me to speculate about this matter. I just give you, gentlemen, the facts as I saw them, and you can form your own conclusions. Of course, seeing Mr. Gonzales, I need not tell what conclusions I drew. That has nothing to do with it. I carried this lady on up the street."

"What time of day was that?"

"I would say about 2 o'clock; that is, to the best of my recollection."

"You said you looked around after you went across the street. How long was it?"

"I looked around after I got her on the other side of the street."

"How long was that?"

"It is a matter of speculation. It must have been a very short time. I hurried to get hold of her and then I hurried to get her out of what she seemed to think imminent danger."

Juror: "Did you turn around and go back towards the State House to meet this lady?"

"Oh, yes, sir; she was behind me."

"Behind you?"

"Yes, sir; I had to turn my body entirely. I heard something; I do not know what it was; there was something behind me, and I turned my head and my body and I recognized her as a boyhood friend."

"You turned backwards?"

"I think I had taken only one step when the pistol fired."

Juror: "What direction were you walking—what was your position?"

"I was on the inside of the street; Senator Talbird was in the middle and Governor Tillman was on the outside."

"Then you stepped back?"

"Yes, sir; I never paid any attention to these gentlemen any more. I was dropping back to walk up the street with this lady."

"Had you all passed the corner of that building when you dropped back or had you—were you in front of the first building when you dropped back?"

"I could only give you, gentlemen, my impression about that. My impression is—this is a motor house."

"Transfer station."

"Transfer station. My impression is, and what I believe is, that we had reached in front of that door or right between the door and the corner; I am not certain about that."

"Did you notice Governor Tillman after that?"

"When I looked back I was on the opposite side of the street with this lady. I saw Governor Tillman cross the street, rather in the direction in which I had gone."

"What was his attitude?"

"Well, sir; it was hard to say. My attention was engaged with the excitement that this lady was under. My impression was that he had the pistol in his hand, hanging down by his side."

"Was he backing off, or was he backing away from the scene of the trouble or was he walking away?"

"Well, I think he was walking rather sideways; probably, yes, I rather think so. Before the shooting I heard absolutely nothing to attract my attention. There was absolutely nothing. There was a certain reverberation that is caused from shooting a pistol close to a wall. I did not know whether the pistol had been shot on my right or left or behind me, and I never stopped to see who fired it when I saw the condition of this lady."

"You think the firing was done about opposite to that building; about opposite to the door?"

"Well; in my recollection, as well as I remember, it was between the door and the first corner."

"Certainly close to the well?"

"Oh, yes."

"It must have been between you and Senator Talbird?"

"That is a matter of reasoning. I do not know anything about it. I never saw the firing."

James F. Sims, white, sworn:

"Well, on the day that this occurred, I was coming up Gervais street crossing from the City Hall to the transfer station."

"What day was that?"

"That was on Thursday."

"Do you remember the day of the month?"

"The 15th, about 2 o'clock."

"Then the time was about 2 o'clock in the day?"

"About 2 o'clock, yes. It might have been a little before or a little after. I was crossing from the City Hall to the transfer station, and before I got to the sidewalk I noticed Governor Tillman and the two gentlemen coming from the State House up Main street. Governor Tillman and the two gentlemen passed just ahead of me. About that time I heard a pistol shot. I looked around and saw Governor Tillman with a pistol in his hand—right hand. I then recognized Gonzales, who stumbled or fell against the extreme corner post of the transfer station; that is, the corner post of Gervais street. He turned the corner then with one or both hands to his side. I do not know whether he had both or not. I stepped up and asked him if he was hit. He said, 'Yes.' I then asked him what he wanted me to do, and he said he wanted to go home. I steadied him for a minute, a second, rather, and went to the corner to look for a hack, but did not see one. Joined Mr. Gonzales again. Mr. LaMotte came up about that time, and we helped him to the State office. The shooting took place between the corner of the building and the door of the transfer station on the east side of Main street. My attention was first attracted by the shot; the report of the pistol; and as I looked up I heard Governor Tillman say: 'I received your message.'"

Mr. Sims: "Did you hear Lieutenant Governor Tillman speak after the firing or before it?"

"It must have been after, for I did not notice the men at all until after I heard the shot."

"Then you heard the remark?"

"I heard the remark. It might have been just as the shot was fired. I heard the remark. It certainly—"

"No; I did not know a thing about it until after I heard the shot."

J. F. Sims swore that his attention was first attracted by the report of the pistol and that he heard at about the same time Tillman say: "I received your message." He emphasized that the pistol shot first attracted his attention. Clerk Walker has the custody of the pistols and the bullet that passed through Mr. Gonzales's body and they were exhibited.

LaMotte's testimony bore chiefly on incidents occurring immediately after the shooting, when he went to Mr. Gonzales's assistance. Dr. Knowlton read a technical report of the result of the autopsy, which has been published substantially. He expressed the opinion that the shot was fired at close range and rather from the side than from the front.

Tillman has made no statement.

Call and get a copy of Pupils Potpourri. H. G. Osten & Co.

SOUTH CAROLINA'S SHAME.

Comments of the Press On the Assassination of Editor Gonzales by Lieutenant Governor Tillman.

Tillmanism has again brought the State of South Carolina into contempt. The lieutenant governor of the State, Tillman by name, armed himself with two revolvers and went out for blood. He was at enmity with Editor Gonzales, of the Columbia State, but the provocation was old, and so the act of the lieutenant governor was deliberate. He violated the law first of all when he went out on the streets with concealed weapons in his pocket. Then meeting his enemy on the public streets, a courageous, unnamed man, he fired upon him with a view of taking his life. He shot a hole through the editor's body, and was about to shoot again, but his nerve seemed to fail him when Gonzales looked him in the face and called him a coward and dared him to fire another bullet. Tillmanism has been a blight upon this noble State from the day that it showed its ugly head. It is surprising to us that the good people of the State do not rise up in their might and crush it, and retire every man of the name from public life.—Richmond Times.

The spectacle of the lieutenant governor of a State, after assassinating an unarmed victim on the public streets, trembling in prison lest he be lynched is indeed edifying. Apart from the horror of the tragedy at Columbia, which casts deep discredit upon the State, it is important to note that the commonwealth now preserves on its statute books a law which forbids the carrying of concealed weapons. Yet here was the second officer in the state, presiding officer of its highest legislative body, himself a participant in the great law-making process, armed with two deadly weapons and using one of them with mortal effect. Are the makers of the laws immune from their operation.—Washington Star.

The shooting of Editor Gonzales by Lieutenant Governor Tillman at Columbia, is regarded as atrocious even for South Carolinian standards, since prompt measures had to be taken to prevent the lynching of the prisoner. What is wanted next is a fair trial of Tillman and a legal punishment—execution by hanging if Gonzales dies, imprisonment for a term of years if he recovers. But we doubt whether either penalty will be inflicted. Several years ago the most distinguished editor in the State a man of high character, was assassinated in Charleston in broad daylight by a man whose degraded propensities had been interfered with by the editor, not in the columns of his newspaper, but in the course of his duty as a citizen. The assassin received no adequate punishment. If this murderer had been hanged, as he richly deserved to be, Gonzales would probably have been able to walk the streets of Columbia without danger of falling by a coward shot, and Tillman would not now be in need of protection against lynchers.—New York Post.

The shooting of Editor Gonzales by Lieutenant Governor Tillman at Columbia was a most deplorable affair from every standpoint. Without presuming to go into the merits of the controversy that led up to it, the deed itself, was cowardly and despicable. There is no provocation that justifies a man in shooting in cold blood an unarmed, defenseless fellow-being. And, again, a man holding the second highest office in the gift of the State, sworn to preserve and enforce the law, went armed, in defiance of the law.—Charlotte News.

The attack and attempted murder and probable assassination of Editor Gonzales, of the Columbia State, by Lieutenant Governor James H. Tillman, of South Carolina, is the legitimate product of Tillmanism. The nephew James, with his long range pistol, and his shorter range, No. 38, is the more up-to-date, as compared to Uncle Ben, the United States Senator from South Carolina, with his "pitch fork" of blasphemy and vituperation. The one, cowardly shoots an unarmed man, the other may not take life but incites to desperate action, and leaves the trail of the serpent, to breed discord and disaster.—New Bern Journal.

All the accounts of the deplorable affair tend to show that the murderous assault was premeditated—not only premeditated, but the most suitable time chosen when the assassin would be in least danger of any bodily harm to himself by reason of his intended victim being prepared to act in self-defense.—Wilmington Messenger.

South Carolina has a splendid opportunity to turn a new page in the vindication of her good name and the law by meting out to Tillman the full penalty for his crime. If the slayer of Gonzales had been a negro he would have been hanged without the formality of a trial.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

We are satisfied Tillman's deed was premeditated, it was not a case of sudden heat and passion which would entitle him to a recommendation of mercy, but a cold-blooded act with murder as its intent, and purpose.—Manning Times.

The whole South mourns for Gonzales of South Carolina, the brave and chivalrous editor who was a martyr to his principles. It is a shame that he should have been so brutally murdered, and especially by an officer of State government, whose sworn duty it was to keep the peace and uphold the law. We have not heard Mr. Tillman's defense, and as he is to be tried in a court of justice, we shall not say that he deserves to be hung. But we do say, and all lovers of justice and all defenders of law and order say that he should be held to strict account, that he should receive the full penalty of the law according to the evidence, and that he should not be shielded by testimony or political influence.—Richmond Times.

The latest in fine stationery just received and placed on sale at H. G. Osten & Co's book store.

Pupils Potpourri.

THE WOOEMEN BANQUET.

The Installation of Officers of Hollywood Camp W. of W. and the Annual Banquet—Two Hundred Woodmen Present.

The annual meeting of Hollywood Camp, No. 19, Woodmen of the World, at which the officers elected to serve during 1903 were installed with full form and ceremony in accordance with the ritual of the order, was held in the Camp Hall Wednesday night. There was a large attendance of Woodmen, nearly 200 of the camp membership being present.

Following the installation and business meeting the annual banquet was served in the Ducker & Bultman hall, where tables were laid for the large number of Woodmen and a few invited guests of the Camp.

The hall and the tables were tastefully decorated for the occasion and an abundance of substantial as well as dainties and delicacies were provided to tempt the appetite of the sturdy Woodmen. The banquet was prepared and served under the direction of the ladies of the First Baptist Church, and they succeeded in furnishing a most satisfactory and thoroughly enjoyable repast and their management of the entire affair cannot be too highly praised. It was no small undertaking to prepare and serve a banquet for two hundred men, and to make of it a complete success, is to merit congratulation.

Only four regular toasts were proposed by Mr. L. I. Parrott, the chairman of the committee of arrangements and master of ceremonies. The responses were in keeping with the occasion and responsive to the sentiments proposed. The speeches were not lengthy, yet much was said that was well considered and worthy of recollection. The toasts were as follows:

Holly Wood Camp—May it stand always upon the broad principles of true fraternity. Con. Com. C. M. Hurst.

Our Country—By the wisdom and devotion of her statesmen, may she be safely guided past all dangers, and become forever the world's beacon light of genuine liberty. Hon. H. Frank Wilson.

Our State—Let her tragic past be our glory; her present hopes our inspiration, and her future destiny our chief concern. Col. J. M. Knight.

Our Homes—The basis of our civilization—The source from which must come those virtues that make a great people. Rev. J. H. Thacker.

Everybody's Magazine.

Everybody's Magazine begins most appropriately with an article on India—"The Courts of the Rajahs." This is apropos of the great "durbars" at Delhi. Both text and illustrations are graphic exponents of the India of the past and the India of today. Justus Miles Forman's exquisite love story, "Journeys End," is concluded; Alfred Henry Lewis takes, for his third article in the series, "Great Days in Great Men's Lives," the forcible part played by Franklin in negotiating with England the Treaty of the Peace of Paris. There is a stunning character study of the adventurous Englishman, Sir Rajah Brooke—"A Viking of the East," by H. S. Canfield. An account of Miss Jane Addam of Hull House and what she has done for the poor of Chicago will be found very interesting. Booker T. Washington continues "Work with the Hands," with the fourth paper of his autobiographical example. Oscar King Davis's "Incidents of Service in the Philippines and China," is full of thrilling stories of courage drawn from several campaigns. "The New Medical Science of Prevention," by Doctor Thomas L. Stedman is a timely exposition of the real value of physical culture. In the matter of short stories there is "The Rapier of Ferrara," by Atherton Brownell, a dramatic love story; "Hygeia at the Solito," by O. Henry, and "A Japanese Gentleman," by C. V. C. Mathews, the latter a Japanese Washington love story.

A Brother's Tribute.

From The State, Jan. 20. The knightly soul of the brave man, loyal friend and devoted brother whose name has graced these columns since the birth of The State, twelve years ago, has crossed the river and the paths his willing feet have trod shall know him no more. But along their ways, from the seed he sowed, flowers are blooming and the air he loved to breathe, the air of his native State, is sweet with the incense of his noble words and deeds.

To die for his State, even by the loathly hand that struck him down, was sweet to him. During the four days of mortal agony that followed his cruel wounding no words save those of love and sympathy for his bereaved kindred passed his lips. He died with his face to God, a gentleman unafraid.

With heavy hearts his work is taken up by those who loved him well, and in his name the State is pledged anew to the principles for which he gave his life. Ambrose E. Gonzales.

In an editorial tribute to N. G. Gonzales in his paper, The Richmond News, A. B. Williams has the following to say about the murder:

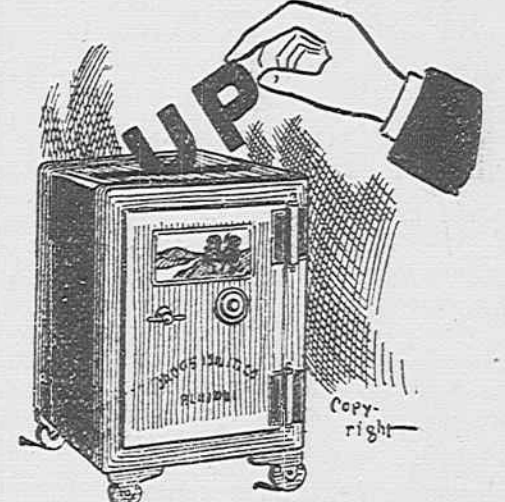
The information so far given to the public, shows the case to be one of deliberate murder, done to avenge injuries of more than four months ago. If the thing had been done in hot blood, immediately after the provocation, or if some warning had been given so that there would have been anything like a fair division of the risk or the assaulted man might have had a showing for his life, the case would be different.

As it is, South Carolina is on trial before the country, and the country will watch with acute interest to see whether her courts and juries can cope with a crime like this. She has in her annals a long and bloody list of un-avenaged man-slaughter, the victims including some of her best and most useful citizens. This case puts her on trial again.

The personal popularity or unpopularity of the victim should not be considered, and the country looking on will not justify or condone consideration of it.

Which? A lean and potash-hungry soil, wasted seed, wasted labor and idle gins—A MORTGAGE. Or, plenty of Potash in the fertilizer, many bales and a busy gin—A BANK ACCOUNT. Write us for our books. They are money winners. We send them free to farmers. GERMAN KALI WORKS 99 Nassau St. New York

THE SUMTER SAVINGS BANK. HORACE HARBY, President. I. C. STRAUSS, Vice-President. GEO. L. RICKER, Cashier. Capital Stock, \$25,000 Liability of Stockholders, 25,000



Saving up without the aid of the bank is never profitable and seldom successful. With a bank book in one's possession the desire to save grows with the deposits and wasteful expenditures are curtailed. Interest at the rate of 4 per cent is paid by the Sumter Savings Bank, and helps materially to swell the balance at the end of the year. We carry burglar insurance to cover all losses.

TAX RETURNS FOR 1903.

OFFICE OF COUNTY AUDITOR, SUMTER COUNTY, SUMTER, S. C., Dec. 5, 1902.

Notice is hereby given that I will attend, in person or by deputy, at the following places on the days indicated respectively, for the purpose of receiving returns of personal property and poll taxes for the fiscal year commencing January 1st, 1903. At office, Sumter, S. C., at all other times up to Feb. 20th, 1903, inclusive. Tindall's store, Monday, Jan. 5th. Privateer, Jenkins' store, Tuesday, Jan. 6th. Manchester, Geo. T