

THE OLDEST MAN.

RICHARD GREEN DIES AGED 123 YEARS.

He Was Probably the Oldest Man in America and a Native of Charleston, But a Resident of Sumter More Than Fifty Years.

From the Daily Item, June 7.
Richard Green, who was probably the oldest man in the United States, died at his home on Manning Avenue this morning. He was born in Charleston county February 17, 1785, and was therefore one hundred twenty-five years, three months and twenty-one days old.

He was born a slave and was owned by the Manigault family in whose service he remained until the estate was sold for division. Somewhere about 1850 he was purchased by Lawrence Belser, a contractor who built a part of the Wilmington and Manchester railroad. Richard was brought to Sumter at that time to work on the railroad as a wagon driver, being then too old to do heavy work. In this connection the writer was told a good many years ago by the late Abraham Ruffin, who died a very old man, that he worked with Richard Green on the W. & M. road in 1852 and that Richard was then a man well past middle age, apparently at least sixty years. While here Richard married a woman owned by Mrs. Buford and she purchased him from Mr. Belser. Later on Richard was bought by the late Myles Moran in whose service he continued until emancipation.

Until a year or two ago Richard was well preserved and talked intelligently and interestingly. He gave an interesting account of the visit of Washington to Charleston in 1792 and also of LaFayette's visit, giving many details of the public entertainments provided for these distinguished visitors by the people of Charleston. He also told of many other notable events in the early history of Charleston which he recollected and related with a circumstantial detail that was convincing that he was an eye witness.

There is every reason to believe that Richard was as old as he claimed to be, and that he has persisted in the claim that he was born on Feb. 17, 1785; for the past twenty-five or thirty years, many residents of Sumter can testify. With the data which he was able to furnish, some of which is still available, it would have been possible to verify his statements as to the date of his birth and his age at the time of his sale by the Manigault estate. He said that at the time he was sold at the settlement of his Master's estate, he did not bring a big price, as he was sold "as an old man" not able on account of his age to perform many years of hard labor.

Richard leaves no near relatives so far as is known. He had one son, Capers Green, by the wife he married after coming to Sumter, but he died some years ago. One granddaughter was living in Chicago a few years ago and he occasionally received letters from her, but of other descendants he never talked, except to say that he had several children by the wife, or wives, he had had in his early manhood while living in Charleston.

He had been unable to perform any manual labor for at least ten years and was cared for by the charitable people of this city. Until the past two years he was a familiar figure on the streets as he went about, with a placard on his hat showing his age and birthday, soliciting alms. Recently his support has been largely provided by Mr. Ed. Witherspoon who provided him a house and saw to it that he was never in actual need.

RECEPTION A SUCCESS.

Occasion Was Greatly Enjoyed by Those Present.

The reception given the graduates of the high school Tuesday night by young men of the city was a success in every particular. Much of the success is due to the untiring energies of Mr. James Bryan and his committee who left nothing undone to add pleasure to the occasion.

Besides the armory hall the Masonic hall was used. Those who did not dance engaged in games in the latter place. Heart dice was played.

The dancing was greatly enjoyed. About fifty couples and about twenty-five stags took part in it. The music was furnished by Schumacher's Orchestra.

The hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion.

On the back wall was "1910" and on the sides, "Sumter High School." The decorations were evergreens and the class colors, purple on white.

The young ladies served ice cream and cake, which was greatly enjoyed.

The reception will long be remembered as one of the pleasantest occasions of the season.

Richard Holmes, colored, was tried before the Recorder Monday for drunk and disorderly conduct and given \$7.50 or 15 days.

DEMOCRATS DISCOVER "JOKER."

Think Railroad Bill Proving Nullifies Law Against Rebating.

Washington, June 6.—Democratic leaders in the House today discovered an alleged "joker" in the Senate railroad bill, which, they say, would permit the railroads to engage in rebating without fear of prosecution. It is in the form of a five-line provision to that section of the existing law, which prescribes a penalty of \$250 for failure to quote a rate to a shipper on request or for misquoting a rate. The proviso, which is said to nullify laws prohibiting rebates, was presented by Senator Shiveley, a Democrat, and is as follows:

"Provided, however, that notwithstanding anything in this section contained, any person or company suffering damage in consequence of any violation of any of the provisions of this section shall have the right to recover such damages by suit against the carrier in any Court of competent jurisdiction."

The theory of the Democratic members of the House, who pointed out this feature of the bill, was that it would open the way for railroads to give rebates under the guise of paying damages to a shipper. Lawyers of the Senate, both Republican and Democrat, ridiculed the suggestion, and said it probably was advanced to cast doubt upon the wisdom of accepting the Senate amendment to the railroad bill without conference.

Representative Underwood, of Alabama, declared the Senate amendment would effectually restore to the railroads the power to grant rebates.

Representative Sims, of Tennessee, a Democrat, member of the committee on Inter-State and foreign commerce, said that in his opinion, the Senate section would restore to the railroads the privilege of rebating.

"I do not want to say," said Mr. Sims, "that the Senate intended the section to read that way, but is the effect of the provision."

THE POSTAL BANK BILL.

Committee Provides for Speedy Passage by Blocking off Amendments and Limiting Discussion.

Washington, June 6.—The house postal savings bank bill was put on the ways by the committee on postoffices and post roads today, and with everything greased for its final passage, is expected to glide through the house without a single amendment being tacked to it. The Democrats of the committee filed two minority reports against the bill, one by Representative Moon (Tenn.), inveighing against all postal savings bank legislation as unconstitutional and unwise, and another by Representative Finley (S. C.), supported by the other Democratic members of the committee, criticising the Republican bill and offering a Democratic measure as a substitute. The bill will be called up in the house tomorrow unless all plans go wrong.

LEXINGTON PHYSICIAN ARRESTED.

Dr. Oxner Charged with Practicing Without State License.

Lexington, June 4.—Dr. W. A. Oxner, of Gilbert, was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Miller this morning upon a warrant charging him with the practice of medicine and surgery without a license. The warrant was issued by Magistrate T. L. Harman upon affidavit of Dr. F. G. Roberts, of this town.

Dr. Oxner came to Lexington and immediately gave bond in the sum of \$500 for his appearance at the General Sessions Court. The law requires that every physician must have a license from the State board of examiners or hold a diploma from a medical college within the borders of the State.

Dr. Oxner is a graduate of the Medical College of Georgia and has a diploma from that institution, but it seems that the law in this State does not recognize diplomas from colleges outside of the State to the extent that a doctor cannot practice medicine without first obtaining a license from the State board. Dr. Oxner has been practicing medicine for a number of years at Gilbert. He is a married man and has five children. It is said that he enjoys an extensive and successful practice.

It is stated that the case will be vigorously pushed and the outcome will be watched with keen interest by the physicians all over the State.

It is certain now that there will be amusement for one night during the tournament. One night there will be an amateur minstrel show composed exclusively of local talent, male and female and Schumacher's Orchestra. The proceeds will be devoted to the Civic League.

The Item is in receipt of a basket of peaches presented by Mr. George E. Martin, a progressive and prosperous farmer, and our valued correspondent at Daizell, who was in the city Tuesday.

AMERICAN IN JEOPARDY.

GOVERNMENT'S ACTION PROMPT IN PITTMAN CASE.

Dispatches Sent to American Consulates in Nicaragua—Will Demand Humane and Regular Treatment of American Charged With Laying Insurgent Mines—Fear that Pittman May Suffer Fate of Groce and Cannon.

Washington, June 4.—The State department has acted promptly in the case of Wm. P. Pittman, an American engineer, who is said to have been captured by the Madriz forces while operating with the Estranda army.

The following is a paraphrase of telegrams sent by the State department today to the American consulate at Managua and Bluefields and to Commander Gilmer, of the Paducah:

"There is a newspaper report from San Juan del Sur to the effect that Wm. Pittman an American citizen, who is alleged to have laid mines while operating with the Estrada forces, has been made prisoner by the Madriz forces, and is about to be tried by Court-martial. It is unnecessary to point out that this Government will zealously scrutinize the treatment accorded him, which must be humane and regular. You will immediately make inquiry and report to the department."

If any further evidence were needed to confirm the officials here in their belief that Madriz is following closely in the footsteps of his predecessor, Zelaya, it is afforded by the case of Pittman. It is said Pittman possibly may be made to suffer a fate similar to that which befell Groce and Cannon last November. In the case of those two Americans a drum-head Court-martial had pronounced the death sentence upon them and the tragedy of their execution had been enacted before it was known in the United States that they were under sentence. In the present case the Government was forewarned. The intimation was clearly given the Madriz Government that someone would suffer if any summary action should be taken against him.

What action this Government will take will depend largely upon the reports from the United States consuls at Managua and Bluefields, and from Commander Gilmer. There has been no intimation from any source that this Government will take and precipitate action.

Court-Martial for American.

San Juan del Sur, Nic, June 4.—William P. Pittman, the American who laid the mines at Bluefields for the insurgents, was captured by the Government troops and will be tried by Court-martial.

This was made known today, following the receipt by the Government of the details of the capture of Bluefields Bluff by the forces of President Madriz.

The troops passed to the assault over five mines, only one of which was exploded. Pittman was wounded and captured, it is said, as he was engaged in operating the mechanism through which the hidden engines of destruction were released. Pittman hails from Boston.

JUDGE RICHARDSON EXONERATED.

Bar Association Takes All Blame for the Failure to Index Records.

From the Daily Item, June 7.
The county board of commissioners are in session today. Most of the morning was taken up with auditing claims.

A committee composed of Messrs. C. L. Cuttino and I. C. Strauss from the bar association appeared before the board stating in reference to the last minutes regarding the failure of Judge Richardson to have the records in the office of the Judge of Probate re-indexed, that the failure to do so lay entirely with the bar association, as they had neglected to make recommendations as to what was necessary in the matter, as they had been requested to do. They promised that they would undertake in the next month or so to recommend what should be done.

The board requested these two gentlemen to take charge of the matter and to submit their recommendations as soon as possible.

The supervisor and custodian of the court house were instructed to make arrangements for placing the State flag over the court house in compliance with the law enacted by the last general assembly.

The board decided to raise the price offered for the right of way from New Sumter to Mayesville road from \$65 to \$100.

The State penitentiary will be asked for the lease of 10 or 15 prisoners for the changing of the county.

Mr. A. A. Manning will appear before Judge Memminger at Manning and argue a lunacy appeal in the case of Bethune, the convicted Clarendon murder, who it is alleged has gone crazy, since his conviction.

SOME TIMELY ADVICE.

The Health Officer Makes Suggestion for Carnival Week—Some Health Talk.

Health Officer Reardon requests that every householder, and manager of every mercantile and industrial establishment will cooperate with the health and the public work departments of the city government in making Sumter look as clean, bright, and attractive as possible during "Firemen's Week." He is going to request the ladies of the Civic League to take an active part in the success of this undertaking. He says that while experience has shown that the average Sumter citizen cleans three times every week as the number of cart loads of material hauled by the city carts as well as ordinary observation proves, nevertheless he feels that when company comes to town we may be excused for taking the same extra pride in having the entire entire city looking nice as the average householder takes in putting on extra company style in her house under similar circumstances.

The extraordinary cleaning will not do any harm, but on the other hand will surely do good.

All merchants are particularly urged not to permit loose paper and other refuse to be carelessly thrown out of their back doors in the open public lots to be blown around over the lots and streets. Every yard, private and public should present the very best appearance to the visitors. This is a custom in vogue in every city or town in the country during gala week occasions, or other large gatherings.

So far no complaints have been made about mosquitos. The health officer with the poor equipment and facilities at his disposal has been putting down quantities of oil and disinfectants in every place likely to produce mosquitos. But if the citizens will, each and every one, look closely to the removal of all tin cans, and other water holding receptacles, which hold water and breed mosquitos, examine their cess pool covers and see that no holes, be they ever so small are allowed whereby mosquitos may enter and deposit their eggs, if all warehouses, factories, depots, mills, and other places where barrels of water for fire protection are kept will keep the water covered with kerosine or other oils, and will also place about one peck of common greasy salt in the barrels mosquitos will be so scarce in Sumter that we will be delighted even though we do not kill them all out.

Every cess pool should have at least one pint of kerosine oil poured into it by flushing the oil through the pipes at least once every ten days, one quart as a starter, mixed with disinfectants.

If we can possibly avoid mosquitos during the firemen's tournament it will be a splendid "Ad" for Sumter and we will also have inaugurated a systematic fight against these pestiferous and malarial spreading insects as well. The Health Officer is doing all that any one human being can possibly do to maintain sanitary conditions. Health is an individual matter as well as a public matter of interest and individuals must co-operate with the city authorities.

The plan adopted by the city Civic League last spring to bring about a "Spring cleaning day" in which a few ladies on every block interested themselves in interesting their neighbors in the united efforts to make the city look so bright and clean during the meeting of the State Federation of Womens Clubs can again be adopted with little trouble to the ladies on each block, and will give magnificent results as was demonstrated last spring.

A liberal use of lime will do a lot towards eliminating foul odors and will guarantee better health as well. The public works department and the board of health will look after the cleaning of the streets and public lots and the mayor and city council can be depended upon to do their full duty towards making Sumter look attractive to the thousands of visitors during Firemen's Week. By this request for a general spring cleaning it is not meant in the least to insinuate that Sumter is not in as reasonable sanitary condition as any other city, but on the other hand it is meant as a reminder, not a necessity so much, but well—just because it is Sumter, and the Sumter spirit which makes every Sumter citizen takes pride in showing the visitors that Sumter is not only the best place in the State to live, but also to show why Sumter is the banner town of the Palmetto State. That's all. Sumter will be there with the goods alright.

Mr. L. E. White, superintendent of streets, with a gang of darkeys, left Wednesday for Congree to load some cars with gravel for dressing Sumter street. The railroads made a low freight rate for this material and the offer was accepted by council. The work of claying Sumter street will be pushed to completion as fast as possible.

COTTON TARE ACT VALID.

IMPORTANT DECISION RENDERED BY JUDGE DEVORE.

Counsel for Defense Announces Case will be Appealed to Supreme Court—Action Test of Constitutionality of 1910 Act—Law Provides that Six Per Cent Must be Deducted for Tare.

Columbia, June 6.—Judge DeVore has handed down an order affirming the judgment of the magistrate in the cotton tare case, brought to test the constitutionality of the Cotton Tare Act of 1910. Messrs. Lyles and Lyles, attorneys for W. G. Mullins, who was charged with violation of the Act, state that they will appeal the case to the Supreme Court.

The Cotton Tare Act provides that 6 per cent. of the weight shall be deducted for tare. Heretofore the amount was twenty pounds, as is the case in other States.

The appeal from the magistrate was upon two points:

1. That the Act of the Legislature deprived the defendant of the equal protection of the laws.
2. That the Act of the Legislature deprives the defendant of his liberty and property without due process of law.

Judge DeVore says as to the first point:

"It is well settled that the Legislature has a right to make different classes, and so long as all members of the same class are treated alike, if the classification be reasonable, the Courts will not declare such legislation unconstitutional." Citing a case, Judge DeVore concludes: "That defendant, being engaged in the business of buying cotton, comes within the classification made by the Legislature, and, in my opinion, is not deprived of the equal protection of the laws."

On the second point Judge DeVore says that the test seems to be whether the regulations of the Legislature are reasonable. "If they are unreasonable," he says, "then such legislation is unconstitutional; if they are reasonable, then, in the exercise of its police power, the Legislature has the right to enact the law. In the absence of a statute on the subject, the reasonableness of a contract is a question for the judiciary, but if there is legislation on the subject, and the Legislature had the power to pass such a law, then the statute controls."

Citing several cases, Judge DeVore concludes:

"The cotton buyers and cotton sellers differ as to the amount of bagging and ties that should be placed on a bale of cotton. The Legislature intervened and established a scale of cotton tare, and, so far as I am able to judge, the legislation is reasonable."

"Cotton is one of the chief products of this State. There are a great many persons and a great deal of property and a number of organizations engaged in the cotton business."

"What the tare in this State, what it is in Liverpool or what it is in New York, are not matters for this Court to consider. This Court will presume that the Legislature took into consideration the conditions controlling the marketing of cotton and enacted the proper law regarding the tare. But this is not a new question in this State. A law fixing tare on cotton seems to have been enacted as far back as 1846.

"Cotton buyers have a great many customers, many of whom are ignorant, and I can readily see how such legislation as this may be both wise and beneficial."

The judgment of the magistrate is, therefore, affirmed by Judge DeVore.

W. G. Mullins, a cotton buyer of this city, was arrested a few weeks ago for violation of the Act, and the case was a test case to determine the constitutionality of the Act. It is stated that \$1,800.00 is involved in the Act. It will be carried to the Supreme Court. The State Farmers' Union is interested, and all dealers in cotton are watching the proceedings with great interest.

SHERIFF'S SALES.

Only Six Sales Were Made By That Officer Monday.

All of the sales advertised by the Sheriff under tax executions were settled before the sale Monday. The following were those made:

- 1 lot in the City of Sumter, sold as the property of Levey Rembert to Marion W. Seabrook for \$22.50.
- 1 lot, sold as the property of Mattie Swinson, to A. H. Moise for \$20.00.
- 1 lot, sold as the property of S. J. Ramsey to A. H. Moise for \$13.58.
- 1 lot, sold as the property of Ned Washington for \$22.50.
- 1 lot in Sumter, sold as the property of Mrs. Mary E. Joye, to Miss Francis Joye for \$30.41.
- 8 acres near Green Swamp, sold as the property of Elsie Sharper et al to I. C. Strauss for \$53.00.

Purposelessness is the fruitful mother of crime.—Parkhurst.

Suspicious.

"Let me show you 'Love Letters of Wise Men,'" said the clerk in the book emporium.

"Are they signed?" asked the cautious book worm.

"Yes, indeed, every one of them."

"Then they must be forgeries. Wise men never sign their names to love letters."—Chicago News.

Accepting a Compliment.

Census Man—How old are you, madam?

Lady—Twenty-five.

Census Man (gallantly)—You could easily say you were five years younger than you are.

Lady—Oh, I've done that already. —Boston Transcript.

"Mr. Roosevelt always throws sixes," says the Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis. Now, where in a bunch of Sundays did the good doctor pick up his knowledge of the value of throwing sixes?—Springfield Union.

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