

JOHN BELL TOWILL ON STAND.
HEARING AT SALUDA BRINGS
OUT INTERESTING STATE-
MENTS.

Proceedings to Justify on Bond Occasion for Numerous Questions by Attorney Relative to Property Owned by Mr. Towill—Examination Harked Back to Time when Witness was Member of Dispensary Board—Reference to Graft Trials.

Saluda, Jan. 1.—John Bell Towill, in the course of a hearing here yesterday before the clerk of Court to justify on a bond he is endeavoring to make on behalf of Andrew E. Watson in claim and delivery proceedings instituted by C. E. Jones & Co., of Batesburg, against A. B. Watson and Mrs. A. B. Watson, of Hibernia, made a number of interesting statements in reference to the property he owned. The examination took a rather wide range and harked back to the time Mr. Towill was a member of the board of control of the old State dispensary. On the direct examination, conducted by E. L. Asbill, Esq., of Leesville, attorney for Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Mr. Towill stated that he owned real estate in Batesburg worth some \$10,000 and was mortgaged to the extent of \$2,500; that he also owned a tract of land in Saluda County worth about \$2,200, and a half interest in a tract of 480 acres in Edgefield County.

Asked as to his personal property he drew out a batch of notes and mortgages on real estate and proceeded to introduce them in evidence. He held a certain one and while handing this over to the clerk remarked that it was for the purchase money of the land "I inherited—no graft about it either."

The notes and mortgages aggregated about \$2,500. He had others, but as they were about due did not present them. His valuation of the real estate he owns is around \$16,000, with incumbrance of only \$2,500.

He said he owned stock in the "Enterprise," the new paper just established at Batesburg, but declined to say how much.

He testified that there were no civil actions pending against him, except one by C. E. Jones relating to his one-half interest in the Edgefield tract of land. He admitted that he was under bond on the charge of conspiracy to defraud the State, designated by the witness as the "famous graft cases."

Asked if the \$10,000 bond he was placed under was the general charge or the label case, he replied: "God knows; I don't."

On the cross-examination C. J. Ramage, Esq., asked witness when he went on the dispensary board. He did not recall. "Was it as early as 1905?" He did not know. "Was it 1904?" He did not say. He did not recall whether he served on the board in 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, but said he did not serve in 1910. Counsel then asked witness if he would fix the time he did serve on the board or come in five years of it. He answered that he would not swear as to that.

Asked if there was not a suit pending against him in Saluda County, he said he had never heard of any, "but I would not be surprised if some dead beat don't start one," and added that there was no just cause for any.

Asked if there was not some other charge against him besides the label conspiracy case, witness, with some show of exasperation, said "I have never heard of any and I have been at every Court ready for trial and have not asked for a single postponement and am ready now." When told that the latter part of his statement was irrelevant, witness looked around the room and remarked, "I reckon there are some around here who want to use it."

To a certain question asked by Mr. Ramage Mr. Asbill objected but the witness insisted on answering it, saying to Mr. Ramage, "Crack your whip, I can take care of myself; only the galled jade whines."

Changing the line of examination Mr. Ramage asked witness what his property was worth when he went on the State board, and got for his answer "About as much as it is now." When asked if he owned any notes and mortgages when he became a member of the board like he has today, the reply was he did not recall.

"Where did you get the money to loan on these notes and mortgages?" witness was asked, and with some heat replied: "I got it like you got yours, by working for it honestly." In explaining how he made his money, witness said he traded in land, speculated, merchandised and made it in various other ways. "Altogether whether the project looks good," was the reply to whether he speculated in large or small amounts, and as to whether he speculated in cotton futures or not was "none of attorney's business."

Witness could not recall if he bought the two-story brick building in the town of Batesburg valued at

\$6,000 before or after he was on the State board, nor did he know as to the six acres in the town of Batesburg.

When asked to name parties to whom he had conveyed real estate in the past two years he said he could not do so as "they were too numerous to mention." Asked how much he had conveyed to his wife during that period, witness replied: "I cannot swear because I am not in a position to say; some few tracts of land." In trying to get at the value of the land witness had conveyed to his wife, counsel asked him if he had conveyed as much as \$8,000 worth to her and the answer was, "I did not pay or receive from her that much money for said property conveyed."

More than once during the examination the witness emphasized the fact that he was ready for trial in the "famous graft cases," to use his own expression, and said he had never asked for a continuance and had been at every Court since the indictment was found against him, and he would be there next time Court met.

The examination occupied several hours and was at times very interesting.

The hearing was continued until Monday.

PROFESSIONAL TRAMP IN TOWN.

"A No. 1" Tramp Passed Through Sumter Saturday Night on His Way From Columbia to Paris Unknown.

The professional tramp styling himself, "A No. 1 Tramp," passed through Sumter Saturday night, having come on to this town from Columbia where he had spent the day. He stayed in the city about two hours after which he took the rods and departed for some place farther on up the road.

After having had a most successful day in Columbia where he had seen a reporter on the Columbia State and talked himself up for quite a while he left that "burg" and, taking the rods of a convenient freight train, made his next stop at Sumter. Here he wandered about town for the greater part of two hours, and falling in his efforts to find anyone at the Item office, he roamed around until he struck up with some one he could talk to who would not ask too many impertinent questions. He arrived in the city sometime about 8 o'clock and stayed until the first convenient train left after that time. He would not say where he was going nor would he give any information as to his birthplace or name, but this did not keep him from being interesting company for he was a good talker, making his conversation entertaining by the use of a great deal of the slang of the road, and entertained his listeners by telling them incidents in his life and of his exploits.

The following notice sent out by Congressman Lever will be of great interest to college students of this county who would like to get into the navy.

A competitive examination of all applicants from the Seventh Congressional District to a vacancy at the United States Naval academy, which occurs on the 4th of March, next, will be held in Columbia, on Saturday, January 28th, 1911, at 9 o'clock a. m. Those desiring to compete for this appointment should write me at once for a copy of the rules and regulations governing the admission of candidates to Annapolis, and for permission to stand the competitive examination. Very truly,

EXAMINATION FOR ANNAPOLIS.
Examination for Appointee to Annapolis from the Seventh Congressional District to be Held in Columbia on January 28.

A. F. Lever,
 M. C. Seventh S. C.

BOLL WEEVIL MOVING EAST.
Indications Entire Cotton Belt Will Soon be Infested.

Washington, Jan. 1.—"Nothing has happened up to the present time to indicate that the boll weevil will not eventually reach the northernmost and easternmost portions of the cotton belt," says W. D. Hunter, in charge of Southern field crops investigations, in a bulletin issued today by the department of agriculture.

"The boll weevil last year infested nearly 39 per cent of the cotton acreage of the United States. It was found in 100 per cent of Louisiana; in 60 in Texas, 39 in Arkansas, 30 in Mississippi and 35 in Oklahoma."

The progress of the insect to the East will be more rapid than to the North, because of climatic conditions; but the experience thus far acquired seems to indicate, according to the agricultural department experts, that the boll weevil will eventually overcome any climatic barriers. Important progress has been made in the use of arsenate of lead as a poison.

All art is in its origin connected with religion.—Ulricl.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SCANDAL.

CERTIFICATION LAW FOR TEACHERS BEING VIOLATED.

State High School Inspector Cites Instances of Flagrant Breaches of Act Requiring Certificates.

Columbia, Jan. 3.—Discussing the certification of teachers, W. H. Hand, the State high school inspector, in his annual report comes to the conclusion that the condition in some of the counties of the State, if an investigation should be made, "would be found little less than scandalous."

"In some of the counties the flagrant and open violation of the law is all but amazing. Indeed, in some places, but little show is made of enforcing law or respecting it."

Mr. Hand says: "I am loath to criticize public officials, many of whom I count among my best personal friends. Besides, it is ungrateful to criticize an official whose duties are somewhat onerous and whose remuneration is contemptible, as is the case with the county superintendent of education in this State. Nevertheless, the certification of teachers is a matter of so grave importance to the whole school system, that candor compels me to discuss it here."

"With a full realization of the meaning of my words, I assert my belief that were an investigation made of the administration of the present law in regard to the certification of teachers, the conditions in some of the counties would be found little less than scandalous. In some of the counties the flagrant and open violation of the law is all but amazing. Indeed, in some places but little show is made of enforcing the law or respecting it."

"It is safe to say that in some counties one-fourth of the teachers in the public schools are teaching and being paid public funds illegally, since they are doing so without valid certificates. Many of these teachers are entitled to certificates upon diplomas which they hold from accredited colleges, but have never secured them."

"Some of this class have been teaching for 10 and 15 years. There are numbers of others who have been teaching as long as ten years without certificates, and who are not entitled to them. There are others still who are teaching on certificates several years out of date."

"The nature of the above statements demands the citation of specific cases. Here are a few: A certain woman had taught continuously in one county for more than ten years; she had once been examined by the county board, and her certificate had been renewed from time to time; finally her certificate lapsed, and when she stood her second examination she failed on nearly one-half the subjects given; she was given a certificate, however, to keep from humiliating her family."

"Two women, in different counties, had taught for years without certificates, and neither was entitled to a certificate; each was looked upon as an 'indispensable' in her home school; there came a day in 1909 when certificates were required, they and their friends demanded certificates (on general principles); they got the certificates without any pretense of examination."

"A certain man had taught continuously in one county for over 15 years without a certificate; it became necessary for him to have one; his county superintendent, contrary to the plain law, issued him one on a diploma from a college in another State. The same thing has been done in at least four other counties this year. A woman with a certificate (not a diploma of graduation) from a college in a neighboring State was issued a certificate by her county superintendent of education; when asked for his authority to grant it he ignored the inquiry. A county superintendent, in open violation of the law, validated two certificates issued by county boards in another State. Another county superintendent issued a certificate, not a renewal, for attendance upon a county summer school. I have in my possession a copy of a letter from a county superintendent telling a school girl in the ninth grade of a village school that he would grant her a first grade certification on her school grades if her teacher would vouch for her pedagogy; the teacher refused, I am glad to add."

"My office files show that it is the practice of some good county superintendents to write to teachers asking if they have certificates or diplomas, and on receiving an affirmative reply, without ever seeing the certificate or diploma, register the holder in his office. It might be said that a teacher's word ought to be sufficient. The law accepts no such evidence. Besides I happen to know that only this year one man and two women claimed to have credentials entitling them to certificates, but when pressed to produce them could not do so.

"In several counties it is the practice for the principal of a school to make out one pay warrant for him-

self and all his assistant teachers, and the county superintendent countersigns it. The attorney general has ruled that this is illegal, and his ruling is given in the school laws.

"These instances ought to be sufficient to convince the most skeptical as to the need of a reform in the certification of teachers."

POSTAL BANKS OPEN TO-DAY

REGULATIONS ANNOUNCED BY POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Beginning today, People of One Town in Each State and Territory will Have Opportunity of Entrusting Savings to Uncle Sam's Postal Depositories—System Expected to be Rapidly Extended—Newberry Selected in this State.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Postmaster General Hitchcock has announced the following complete regulations that will accompany the opening of the Government's postal savings bank all over the United States on January 3. Mr. Hitchcock believes these rules to be so simple that any one may understand them.

Under the terms of the Act deposits may be made by any person of the age of ten years or over, and by a married woman. Deposits may be made by children of the proper age in their own name, free from any control or interference by parents, and the same is equally true in the case of a married woman, whose account shall be free from any control or interference by her husband.

The law expressly forbids any person from having more than one account in his or her own right, and any violation of the spirit of this provision will subject the offender or transgressor to penalty.

Only the accounts of individuals will be accepted by postmasters. Corporations, societies and the like will not be accepted as depositors. The regulations are mandatory and require the signature of the individual to be left with the postmaster at the time the deposit is made, as well as on its withdrawal.

Certificates of deposit will be issued in various denominations ranging from \$1 to \$100. They will be issued in duplicate, the original going to the depositor and the duplicate to the files of the depository. The duplicate must bear the age and name of the depositor, who is expected to carefully scrutinize it before signing to see that it is drawn for the proper amount.

At least \$1 or a larger amount in multiples thereof must be deposited before an account can be opened, but no one will be permitted to deposit more than \$100 in any one calendar month. The balance to the credit of any one person shall never be allowed to exceed \$500, exclusive of accumulated interest.

In order that the smaller amounts may be accumulated for deposit any person may purchase for ten cents from any depository office a postal savings card, to which may be attached specially prepared adhesive stamps, which have been especially designed for the purpose and are known as "postal savings stamps," and when the stamps so attached amount to \$1, including the ten-cent postal savings card, the same may be presented as a deposit for opening an account. This permission has been granted to encourage thrift among the poor and to teach the school children the habit of saving.

When a depositor wishes to withdraw any part of his account he must present certificates equal to the sum he wishes to obtain, and the surrender certificate must have been endorsed on the back and the signature must correspond with that on the filed certificate before the money will be paid. Certificates are non-negotiable and non-transferable, and are worthless in the possession of any other than their lawful owner.

While it is hoped that depositors with the postal savings system will belong to the savings class who desire to leave their money for long periods for interest purposes, provision has been made to accommodate those who wish to withdraw a portion of their account, so that interest will be lost only on the amount withdrawn. As an illustration, a depositor with \$100 certificate issued on January 1 who wishes to draw down \$50 on July 1 surrenders his \$100 certificate and receives in return \$50 cash and a new certificate for \$50, ante-dated to show that it had been drawing interest from January 1.

Interest at the rate of 2 per cent will be allowed on all deposits, but interest begins to run from the first business day of the month, so that the deposits made after such time in any month cannot begin to draw interest till after the first day of the next succeeding month. In order that the most simple-minded may clearly understand the amount of interest due them at the end of one year or a given number of years a table has been printed on the back of each certificate showing in simple

form the amount of interest that will accrue annually.

One of the most attractive features of the system, of which advantage will be taken by many, is the privilege that will be granted to depositors to convert their funds, after they have been on deposit a given time, into Government bonds. These bonds will be issued in small denominations of \$20, \$40, \$60, \$80, \$100, and a larger denomination of \$500, and will bear interest at the rate of 2 1/2 per cent per annum. They will be registered and coupon bonds. Postmasters will be supplied with blank forms on which depositors can make the necessary application for bonds.

Depositors will be restricted in their operations to one particular office, where the one account to which they are entitled must be kept. If for any reason they wish to open an account at another office in the same city they may do so by closing out their account at the first office and starting an entirely new transaction in the second office.

The establishment of postal savings is regarded as the most important and far-reaching financial step taken by the Government since the authorization of national banks, and their operations will be watched with keen interest by financiers throughout the world.

The new system is to be inaugurated on a comparatively small scale. One postoffice in each State and Territory has been selected as a depository. In those forty-eight offices a thorough test of the new system will be made. It was decided to make the beginning thus small, not only because no adequate appropriation was available to put it into general operation, but also because the plan of operation adopted differs entirely from that of any postal savings system in the world.

THE NEWS OF HAGOOD.

Much Moving During the Christmas Holidays Among the People.

Hagood, Jan. 3.—Mr. and Mrs. I. K. Lenoir, of Camden, paid a flying visit here last week.

Prof. Jesse B. Jackson, of South Georgia, spent the holidays with relatives and friends.

Miss Ethel Allen spent the holidays at home. She is teaching in Chester county.

Misses Emily Creighton and Courtenay Atkinson, who have been teaching in Williamsburg county, are home for a few days.

Miss Maud Shirer of Williamsburg, is visiting relatives in the community. Miss Theresa James after the holiday season will return to Greenville College for Women.

Miss Geneva Spencer is home for a few days from the College for Women in Columbia.

Mr. Eugene Lenoir, who is at home during the holidays from school in Virginia, was in our community last Friday.

Rev. H. C. Bethea returns to Belton, S. C., near where he is teaching, today.

Mr. R. J. Jolly having sold his place, the Mellette place, has bought in Kershaw county, where he will shortly move.

Quite a lot of land has changed hands here and hereabout recently, C. L. Emanuel being the largest purchaser.

Rumor has it that Mr. T. O. Sanders has sold out and bought in Marlboro county.

Yuletide has been quiet, enough with us, but has been a most pleasant time in every way. When every day is Christmas, hard times will be over.

Mrs. C. B. Atkinson seems much improved.

The general health of the community on the Peninsula is fine, notwithstanding small pox is reported nearby.

Our community will have a few new people in the families of Hastings, Freeman and Thomas Moody who are heartily welcomed to this place.

"Hagood."

The Congaree gravel which is being put down on Liberty street was rather muddy Friday, but it will make a good road when it dries out and receives a coating of road oil.

A fire tree on a high bank of the Lewis River, near Vancouver, has been leased to a telephone company for a period of 15 years, to be used as a telephone pole. The owner and leaser of the tree is Mrs. Mary Bratton.

\$5 Reward.
 For black and white pointer dog, lost about a week or ten days. Large size dog with a well defined "W" on one hind quarter. Return dog and get reward. A. J. Moses.
 1-3-11-W.

STOCK FOR SALE.—First class horses and mules. Car load just received. See me before buying and I will save you money. H. R. Tomlinson, Durwood, S. C.
 W&S-1-3-11.

The Farmer Does not Get His Share.

We have heard much lately about the "increased cost of living." It has played its part in the political campaign through which we have just passed, and the unusually high prices of farm products—to those who have them to buy—have led a lot of city newspapers into painting the farmer as a man rolling in wealth and holding the rest of the world at his mercy. A very pretty picture, no doubt, but one scarcely justified by facts.

It is fortunately true that farmers as a class are prosperous, but not unduly so; and it is unfortunately true that a great many Southern farmers, because they have been buyers rather than sellers of nearly all farm products, have failed to derive any great benefit from the high prices of those things with which the farmer supplies the rest of the world. But it is unfair to conclude that farmers in general are getting rich at a too rapid rate. The price of what the farmer has to buy, as well as of what he has to sell, has increased, and more than this, the increase in the price of farm products has not all been going into the farmer's pocket—not by a great deal.

On this point there are some interesting figures in the Annual Report of the Secretary of Agriculture just issued. June last an investigation was made in 78 cities as to the difference between the price received for milk by the producer and that paid by the consumer. In the cities investigated in the North Central States, the producers get just 44 per cent of what the consumers pay; in the North Atlantic States, 53 per cent; in the South Atlantic States, 57 per cent; in the South Central States, 55 per cent. Taking the country as a whole the producer gets about 50 per cent of the final market price, the railroads about 7 per cent, the retailers about 43 per cent.

Investigations made some time ago, but which Secretary Wilson thinks applicable today, because, as he says, "it seems probable that the farmer is not now receiving a larger share of the consumer's price than he received ten years ago, and he may be receiving a smaller," show that the farmer gets 55.1 per cent of what the consumer pays for poultry, 69 per cent of what he pays for eggs, 55.66 per cent of apples when sold by the bushel, 48.9 per cent of strawberries. He fares better with staple crops, getting 93 per cent of the cotton money, 72.9 per cent on wheat, 73.6 per cent on oats, 91 per cent on cattle when bought by packers, 93 per cent on hogs and so on.

It will be seen at once that the fewer hands a product passes through on its way from producer to consumer, the larger the per cent of the ultimate price received by the producer. One would, of course, expect this, as also that the price to the consumer should be higher when the article is sold in small lots. For example, when onions are sold by the barrel, the consumer pays a little less than twice as much as the grower receives, but when they are sold by the peck, he pays over three times as much.

In either case there is too much difference between the first price and the last. The middleman and the transportation companies are, of course, necessary and are certainly entitled to fair pay for their work, but we are yet to be convinced that it is worth as much to distribute the farmer's milk to the consumers as it is to produce the milk. We feel certain that when the railroads and the merchants get as much out of an apple crop as does the man who cared for the orchard and picked the fruit and barreled it and delivered it to the station, that there is something wrong. In short, there are too many middlemen and their profits are too large.

Here is a problem, to the solution of which our wisest men may well give their best thought. It is inconceivable that such a wasteful and unjust system of distribution should be permitted to continue much longer, but it is one thing to recognize its evils and another thing to cure them. We have no panacea to offer for this state of affairs, but it seems to us that one remedy, in many individual cases, must at once suggest itself: Whenever and wherever he can, the farmer should sell his products directly to the consumer. He can thus get more for them, and the consumer can get them for less cost. In many cases he can do this directly—by securing regular customers for his butter or eggs or vegetables, but this necessarily means that he must have a regular supply of these products and be prepared to guarantee their quality. In other cases, notably in the case of truckers, fruit grower and dairymen, co-operative associations, which will deal directly with the consumer, at least with the retailer, will help wonderfully.

It is a big problem and one which must be solved, if the farmer is ever to profit as he should by the higher prices the consumers have to pay for farm products.—Progressive Farmer.

Better it is to be envied than pitied.—Herodotus.