

**NEEDED—A BETTER SCHOOL SYSTEM.**

By Prof. W. H. Hand, State High School Inspector.

The object of these articles is threefold: to put before the people of South Carolina an unvarnished statement of some of the most obvious defects in our so-called system of education, to offer with becoming modesty some suggestions as to remedies, and above all else to provoke intelligent and sympathetic discussion of our educational conditions, needs, and possibilities. I do not expect that all will agree with me fully in either my diagnosis or my suggested remedies. If I am wrong in either, I am open to conviction, and shall be grateful for correction. However, whenever I know I am right, I am not concerned about the opposing views of any man or set of men. No one could be more content than I, if I could arouse even through spirited opposition some one to give us a well-supported, well-organized, and efficient school system in this State.

We need accurate information, motivation, guidance, and courage in dealing with this whole matter of education. Large numbers of our people are absolutely ignorant of our actual conditions. There are others who have a general acquaintance with these conditions but not sufficient definite knowledge to guide them safely and wisely. Both of these classes must be truthfully informed before they can become either active or effective in bringing about desirable reforms. There are still others who are reasonably well acquainted with the situation and who realize the need of reform, but who seem to lack the courage necessary to undertake so big a task as to reconstruct a system of education. These men deserve the encouragement and moral support of all patriotic citizens. Finally, there is a group of men ignorant alike of our conditions and our needs, blissfully content to oppose all efforts at improvement. These men are not open to conviction, and it is but a waste of time to accord them more than a courteous hearing when they feel impelled to speak.

Not only have these articles been written for a specific purpose, but their publication has been timed to appear at the opening of the county political campaigns throughout the State. A house of representatives and one-half the senate are to be elected this year. Fully two hundred men will offer themselves as candidates to become our State lawmakers, the makers of our school laws. It is safe to predict that fully three-fourths of these candidates will each have an educational plank in his platform, and the other one-fourth would not dare deny that they had one. The people, the voters and their families, would like to know just what that educational plank is. Is it the same old worthless plank so many legislative candidates have been telling us about for the past twenty-five years—a glib utterance of glittering generalities and high-sounding ambiguities? The time has surely come for candidates to give up their vague, indefinite, and mysterious declarations about their devotion to education in the abstract, and to tell the people in plain terms what feasible plans they have to increase the school revenues, to provide a better organized system of education, and to make that organization effective. The people are beginning to demand less vociferous stump oratory, fewer vague and specious promises, and more results. To be sure, a respectable number of representatives go to the legislature with well defined and well digested plans for the permanent improvement of educational conditions, but they find themselves hopelessly outnumbered by men ignorant of the needs of the schools, those indifferent to the needs, and those wholly unable to cope with the situation.

It is not extravagant to say that South Carolina needs nothing more than it needs constructive educational statesmanship. A system of education in any modern democracy deals organically with every phase of institutional life. It deals not only with the things intellectual, but with the things moral, social, political, and economic. Taken as a whole, our people have ample educational enthusiasm, but so much of it is either undirected or misdirected that the concrete results are lamentably disappointing. Moreover, in our so-called system of education are many excellent features as yet unorganized and unarticulated. The educational statesman is needed to enlighten this enthusiasm and to link it and those possibilities of our present system with the ripest fruitage of the best political, economic, and sociologic thought of the day. The genius of needed educational statesmanship must be of the constructive type. We have no need of the iconoclast in our educational matters; we do need a master hand to reconstruct and readjust and round out.

The first thing necessary in all constructive work is a full first-hand

knowledge of the foundations upon which the superstructure is to rest. It would be a waste of time, money, and labor to undertake to reconstruct our present system of education without first making a full and frank analysis of what we have. We need to know the strength and the weakness of every timber in our existing educational structure. For not until the people are shown clearly the defects in our present system will they be willing even to listen to plans for its betterment. In matters educational we have been the victims of at least three baneful agencies—self-delusion, self-complacency, and self-approbation. There is no pessimism in saying that the backward condition of the schools in many a community is largely due to the unwarranted and unmerited praise repeatedly indulged in by those who really know better or ought to know better.

Now, educational legislation alone will not give us an effective school system. Back of any code of school laws must lie a firm grasp of the aims and functions of education, and a knowledge of how to apply the means to the demands of our civilization. Yet, a comprehensive and symmetrical school law must be the basis upon which a system of education for the State must rest. Any State system must find its permanent expression in terms of the statutes of the State. Our present school law, however, comprehensive and symmetrical it once may have been, is, after thirty years of amending and repealing, a gorgeous piece of legislative patchwork filled with hiatuses, repetitions, and contradictions. It stands a mute witness to our total lack of anything resembling a system of education. The repeated attempts to improve the law by endless amendments has only added to its confusion.

Between the years 1878 and 1898 approximately one hundred special school districts were created by the general assembly; the same powers and privileges were granted to perhaps no ten of them. There are now several of these special districts in which not a single resident knows the privileges of the Acts creating them, and in several instances not a man in the district is known to be aware of the existence of such Acts. In twenty-nine of the counties of the State the tenure of office of the county superintendent of education has recently been changed from two years to four, while in the remaining counties the term is two years. Even in some of the latter counties the tenure has been changed from two years to four, then changed back to two. The salary scale of the county superintendents reveals almost as great variety as there are counties.

Many are the vain attempts to bring some kind of order out of this chaos. After the first week of any session of the general assembly, the calendars of the two houses show a commendable zeal (but often a dearth of wisdom) on the part of the members to do something for education. The main trouble is that most of these measures are entirely local and often trivial. Instead of making for system they are positively destructive of system. I am not contending for the system of a machine, but for a State system with the merits of coherence and effectiveness. We need some wholesome legislation looking beyond the boundaries of some school district or even the boundaries of some county. It is idle to expect educational legislation State-wide in its application and constructive in its nature, until our people cease to fan the discord and antagonism which have been engendered and fostered by demagogues between the towns and rural communities. The whole thing is undemocratic, primitive, puerile, and destructive of the common good.

(To be continued July 24.)

**PALMETTO ITEM UNCHANGED.**

This State's Share in River and Harbor Appropriations Not Cut Down by Congress.

Washington, July 18.—Congressman Byrnes was one of the most highly pleased men in the house today when it was found that the conferees on the river and harbor bill had not cut any of his items. He is especially glad that the appropriation of \$25,000 for Archee's creek remained in the bill and that a survey was authorized for the Savannah river at North Augusta. It is proposed to survey the river at this point with a view of preventing disastrous freshets hereafter.

All the other South Carolina items also remained in the bill as it went to the conferees.

**Sumter County Summer School.**

The Sumter County Summer School will begin Monday, July 29th and last four weeks. Arithmetic, English and the Primary methods will be taught. The books prescribed by the State Board of Education will be used.

J. HERBERT HAYNSWORTH, County Superintendent of Education.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NOTES.**

**Civic Beauty a Factor in Attracting Capital and Building Factories.**

Every citizen of Sumter will agree on one thing and that is that Sumter needs more factories. But are these citizens willing to make the effort to secure these same factories. There is a great deal more involved in bringing factories to Sumter or to any town than most citizens seem to think. Capital, raw material, a good market and transportation facilities are not the only inducements as many towns have learned to their cost. One of the main factors that prevents factories from locating is the question of skilled labor. The manager of any factory in Sumter will tell you that this is his greatest difficulty. "Import them," you say. But can you keep them in Sumter if you do import them? If they will not stay in Sumter where is the trouble? The answer is simple. The living conditions are such that these laborers are not attracted and if imported will rarely remain for any length of time.

It is here that every citizen can help. Each citizen can make his individual home so attractive that not only will these men wish to live in Sumter but the general effect will be such that capital and investments will be attracted to Sumter. Some of Sumter's citizens seem to think that they can live amidst filth, a yard full of weeds, a back yard so unsanitary and so dirty that it is the breeding place for all kinds of fevers and disease, an unpainted home and broken down fences; and yet believe that they are good citizens. It is this class of citizens that are a detriment to every community and the sooner they will move away the better it will be. Before Sumter can build and grow as she should, before she can hope to attract capital and keep the better class of skilled labor that she needs and to build the better class of factories, she must begin at home. Make Sumter attractive by improving the living conditions, and making her homes clean and neat. When a man tells you that we need more factories, ask him if he is helping to establish factories by doing his part in making Sumter a better place in which to live and by starting at home. Richard B. Watson, secretary of the American Civic Federation and the greatest American expert on this question, hits the nail on the head when he says in this connection:

"Too often the making of parks, the planting of trees, the beautifying of railroad and factory properties, the preservation and enhancing of natural scenery; beauty is regarded as purely aesthetic, as good subjects for women's clubs and for men of the 'dreamy sort.' Those holding such views are woefully in error. In their zeal for commercial aggrandizement they are inviting the investment of capital and labor with them, but too often without first having made suitable provision to receive them.

When an individual invites a guest to his house, he sees to it, or his good wife does it for him, that his home is immaculately clean and that every provision is made for the guest's comfort, convenience and pleasure; but in the face of what he would do as an individual the official of a business organization invites, not as guests for a few days, but as permanent residents, thousands of men, women and children to a city too often lacking in practically all the essentials that contribute to good living.

"Consider the investor of capital. All kinds of alluring offers are submitted to him. He is promised low tax rates, and some instances assurances are given that taxes will be remitted on his manufacturing plant for a time. But when a capitalist goes to a city he is thinking about some other things than ample switching facilities, plenty of territory for development, cheap water rates and fuel supplies. If he alights at a dingy railway station, with dingier surroundings, he makes a mental note of it. If he becomes mud-spattered or dust-littered he is likely to make more than a mental account. Does he look in vain for street signs, for shade trees, for good pavements, for restful breathing spots? He is thinking of just a few other things than the opportunity to make money easily. He is, or ought to be, wondering how wife and children will take to this proposed new home. He can, if he must, put up with bad conditions; although other things being equal, he prefers the same pleasant conditions that he demands for the family he supports.

"So much for the investor of capital. How about the investor of labor. He is invited by the thousands, and he has been learning things, too, and is looking for something, besides good daily wages. He has a family, usually a larger one than the capitalist and he is ambitious for that family. He wants his boys to get out of the wage earner's class and into the capitalist or professional class. The great movements designed to stimulate the masses of the people to

seek for higher planes of living have not been without fruit.

"The city that wants to increase its population by attracting additional men, skilled and unskilled, must have specific advantages to offer in living conditions. Schools and school teachers are not enough; there must be playgrounds and playground directors; there must be parks, clean, well shaded streets, attractive residence centers, with houses to rent and for sale within the reach of those of limited means; houses that are well constructed, near parks, provided with good water, safe sewerage and ample police and fire protection. Without these accessories, no matter how favored a city may be with railway and water shipping facilities, with areas for factory development, with abundant supplies of raw material, it can not hope to attain to the greatest heights in commercial and manufacturing industries."

Mrs. Herbert Bennett, Mrs. S. H. Edmunds, Miss Sallie McDonald and Miss Mamie Edmunds left Saturday morning for a stay on Sullivan's Island.

During the summer months mothers of young children should watch for any unnatural looseness of the bowels. When given prompt attention at this time serious trouble may be avoided. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy can always be depended upon. For sale by all dealers.

Cold cash always receives a warm reception in a live town.

Buy it now. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is almost certain to be needed before the summer is over. Buy it now and be prepared for such an emergency. For sale by all dealers.

Policeman W. A. Tribble was Tuesday returned to duty on the police force after being absent from the force for about two months acting as foreman of the gang which made repairs on the Hauser and Salem avenue sewer lines.

**Insect Bite Costs Leg.**  
A Boston man lost his leg from the bite of an insect two years before. To avert such calamities from stings and bites of insects use Bucklen's Arnica Salve promptly to kill the poison and prevent inflammation, swelling and pain. Heals burns, boils, ulcers, piles, eczema, cuts, bruises. Only 25 cents at Sibert's Drug Store.

A large force of hands is now engaged on the Imperial and the work is progressing rapidly. The foundations have been laid and excavations for the boiler and furnace room are now being made.

The ground has been broken for the set of stores on Caldwell street and a force of hands is now excavating for the foundation of the building.

Dysentery is always serious and often a dangerous disease, but it can be cured. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy has cured it even when malignant and epidemic. For sale by all dealers.

**Live Stock Insurance**

Insure your Horses, Mules and Cattle from death from any cause in the Standard Live Stock Insurance Company, with

**W. A. Brown,**  
Agent.

At the Old, Reliable Clothing Store of the D. J. Chandler Clothing Co. Phone 166. 3-30-11aw

**A man's appearance**

has more to do with his success today than it ever had. Anything that contributes to his look of well-to-do-ness is justified—yes, NECESSARY. Is there anything that you know of that advertises success more than A NICE RING? Certainly, nothing that a man wears is more in evidence. A few dollars spent on a ring, any good ring, will prove to be an investment to most men. Let us place our ring stock before you Mr. Man. Then ask all the questions you like. We replace all stones in rings we sell, free, except diamonds.

**W. A. Thompson,**  
JEWELER AND OPTICIAN.

**More Milk Per Cow**

We guarantee that you can greatly increase the milk yield of every cow and materially reduce the cost of keep by using PRATTS ANIMAL REGULATOR. If you are not satisfied with results, we refund your money. 25c, 50c and \$1.00. 25 lb. pails—\$3.50.

For Sale by all First Class Dealers. Refuse all 1912 Almanac and Poultry Book Free

**IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.**

Negro Charged with Shooting at White Man—Constable Mellette Resigns, Walter Dinkins Takes Place.

In Magistrate Wells' office Thursday morning a warrant was taken out by I. T. Davis charging C. Saddler, colored, with shooting at him and others with a pistol, the bullet of which grazed his head. The other two men were D. B. Stone and H. B. Stone.

Saddler waived a preliminary and put up bond of \$300 for his appearance for trial at the circuit court.

Constable Peter H. Mellette has resigned his position as constable for H. L. B. Wells and has accepted a position with Harby & Company with whom he will commence work August first. Mr. Mellette is taking a two week's vacation in the meantime at Chadbourn, N. C.

Mr. Walter J. Dinkins has been appointed constable for Magistrate H. L. B. Wells and will assume his duties at once.

Since the death of Magistrate Ingram the duties of his office have devolved upon Magistrate Wells, he being the nearest magistrate and according to law the processes being served by him. The same constable will serve at Privateer until another magistrate is appointed but all processes and cases will be made out and tried here.

**DR. CARL B. EPPS,**  
Physician and Surgeon.  
Office over DeLorme's Drug Store, Residence 307 N. Main Street. Office hours 11 A. M. to 2 P. M. Office phone 419, residence, 371.

If you are a reasonably hope to be healthy or beautiful by washing dishes, sweeping and doing housework all day, and crawling into bed dead tired at night. You must get out into the open air and sunlight. If you do this every day and keep your stomach and bowels in good order by taking Chamberlain's Tablets when needed, you should become both healthy and beautiful. For sale by all dealers.

**DEEDS, NOT WORDS.**  
Sumter People Have Absolute Proof of Deeds at Home.

It's not words but deeds that prove true merit. The deeds of Doan's Kidney Pills, For Sumter kidney sufferers, Have made their local reputation. Proof lies in the testimony of Sumter people who have been cured to stay cured. J. H. Grady, 16 Wright street, Sumter, S. C., says: "I do not hesitate to recommend Doan's Kidney Pills, having found them very beneficial. My back ached nearly all the time and I had acute pains through my kidneys. I was often lame and stiff and I noticed that the kidney secretions contained sediment. Doan's Kidney Pills, which I obtained from China's Drug Store, removed these symptoms of kidney complaint and helped me in every way. I know that this remedy can be relied upon." (Statement given March 16, 1908.)

**A Lasting Cure.**  
On January 9, 1911, Mr. Grady said: "I willingly confirm my former endorsement of Doan's Kidney Pills and make the fact known that they effected a permanent cure in my case. You may continue to publish my endorsement of this preparation." For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other. No. 26

**GEORGE H. HURST**  
UNDERTAKER AND EMBALMER.

Prompt attention given to day or night calls. Special line of Hardwood Shipping Cases, Slate and Steel Vaults.

Day Phone 539. Night Phone 201.

**SUBURBAN OPPORTUNITIES.**

Well located suburban properties always increase in value as the city grows. Sumter has a commanding position in Eastern Carolina, and with her exceptionally good railroad facilities bringing in trade from a large area of the finest farming territory in the State, her steady growth is certain.

I am offering in a tract of 15 acres on North Main and Church Streets, one of the most promising suburban development propositions to be had hereabouts. Property has on it two good dwellings and servant tenant houses and now days about 4 per cent on the investment. If interested in a proposition where brains and energy can coin dirt into money, see us.

**R. B. Belser Co.**  
REAL ESTATE DEALERS  
261-2 N. Main St. Sumter, S. C.  
R. B. BELSER. ERNEST FIELD.

**Seaside Excursion Rates**  
VIA  
**ATLANTIC COAST LINE RAILROAD**  
The Standard Railroad of the South

**Ten-Day Rates.**

Sold each Saturday (June 1st to Aug. 10th inclusive) to Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island, S. C. limited reach original starting point 10 days from, but not including date of sale.

Sold each Thursday (May 30th to Aug. 15th inclusive) to Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach, N. C. limited to reach original starting point not later than midnight second Monday following date of sale.

Wilmington, N. C.—Wrightsville Beach, N. C. and return \$5.00. For further information call on local Ticket Agent, or address

**T. C. WHITE,**  
General Passenger Agent, Wilmington, N. C.