

**NEEDED — A BETTER SCHOOL SYSTEM—NO. 7.**

By Prof. W. H. Hand, Inspector of High Schools.

In the effective administration of any school system, expert supervision is absolutely necessary. Unless the organic law of the State provides for competent supervisors, and against incompetent ones, it is weak and uncertain. In South Carolina the whole matter of supervision is subject to the caprices and whims of petty politics. There is, for instance, absolutely no legal barrier against an illiterate's becoming either a county superintendent of education or State Superintendent, and no unkindness is meant when it is said that in a few counties, long since the carpet-bagger regime, men not very far removed from illiteracy have sat in the office of county superintendent of education. No professional or educational qualification is required of the holder of either of these offices, and under the present constitution and present mode of election of superintendents, neither professional nor educational qualifications can be required. Any elector is eligible to either office. The briefless lawyer, the antiquated school master, the uneducated farmer, and the over-present typical job-seeking politician are all alike eligible to either office. The worst of it all is that just such men along with their superiors, offer for superintendent, and are at least occasionally elected. The success of the candidate for superintendent of education depends less upon his qualification for the office than upon his ability to tell an anecdote and to mix with voters at a barbecue.

In the case of State superintendent, a candidate must join a campaign party of from a dozen to thirty other candidates seeking election to State offices. Like a traveling circus these men go from county to county for at least forty-four days soliciting the votes of the people, not by the discussion of real issues or the promulgation of doctrines so much as by each candidate's telling why he should be elected and why his opponent should not. In this daily performance the candidate for State superintendent is usually given ten minutes to unfold to his hearers his educational platform, if he has one. When the successful candidate has been elected, he is installed into his office for two years at an annual salary of \$1,900, from which he must deduct at least \$500 for legitimate campaign expenses. He enters upon his duties the following January; just eighteen months later, if he is a candidate for re-election, he must leave the duties of the office to which he has been elected, and re-enter the traveling circus for another forty-four days. At the end of this campaign he has been given a total of seven hours and twenty minutes to enlighten the people of the State on matters pertaining to the education of every child in it.

In the meantime he has either been doing some constructive educational work, or he has been killing time. In either case he must defend himself before the people. Just here is one of the radical weaknesses of our present system; if the superintendent has been active in constructive work, he is sure to come in for harsh and unreasonable criticism by the political tricksters, the malcontents, and the mossbacks. Before he has had the time to demonstrate the wisdom of his course the unwise and the overwise are clamoring for his scalp.

Some people will say that it is but democratic that he should frequently render to the people an account of his stewardship. How we have all used the word democracy to conjure with! How many crimes are constantly being committed in the name of democracy! These astute democrats forget that the trickster, the malcontent, and the mossback are not seeking light but an opportunity to defeat the incumbent and to elect their candidate. These astute democrats overlook the fact that it requires a long time for a profound idea or scheme to penetrate the craniums of a large number of ballot holders (a strong argument in itself for a wider diffusion of learning), and they further forget that these same tricksters, malcontents, and mossbacks bestir themselves far more assiduously than do the thinking, capable, and progressive citizens. Moreover, all observant men are familiar with the fact that thousands of voters give almost no serious thought to the selection of candidates for whom to vote. We all know how dangerously near we have repeatedly come to electing notoriously incompetent men to public office, because their candidacy was looked upon as a joke. Under our present laws how can the people expect a steady forward leadership in the office of State Superintendent? What would be the pitiable condition of the State University, of Clemson, of the Citadel, of Winthrop, or of any of the denominational colleges, if its president or its faculty had to be elected every two years in

a popular election? Would not the policy of the institution be wavering, timid, and flinching? Would it be possible to secure and to hold strong men at their heads? Many of the municipalities of the State, such as Columbia, Sumter, Spartanburg, Greenville, and Orangeburg, have long ago found it necessary to give as much stability as possible to their public schools by retaining at least the superintendent for a number of years. These superintendents are elected to their positions with the understanding that their tenure is as long as they are effective and progressive.

Is not a State system of education of more vital concern to the people than any single college or the school system of any municipality? Why not exercise the same common sense in selecting and retaining the State superintendent of education as exercised in selecting and retaining a college president or a city superintendent? Why not let the General Assembly elect a State Board of Education, with a seven-year term, one of which would expire each year; then let the State Board elect a State Superintendent for a term of four years? The General Assembly could be relied on to give us a good State Board, as it has done in giving us judges. The board itself would be non-political, as far as it is possible to keep any elective State office non-political, and it would be stable. Its policies would not be subject to sudden changes. The State Board would select for superintendent an educational expert equipped and trained for his work. The Superintendent would be directly responsible to the State Board for his success or his failure. He would then occupy a position very similar to the presidents of the State Colleges and the superintendent of the hospital for the insane.

I anticipate these arguments against the proposed plan of selecting a State Superintendent. A few people would object on the ground that an amendment to the constitution would be necessary. To be sure it would; but when the constitution stands in the way of needed legislation, the only sensible thing to do is to amend the constitution. Constitutions are the embodiment of sober and prolonged study; constitutions may be improved after still further study reinforced by experience. A few members of the General Assembly have said that such a plan of selecting a superintendent would give that body a new responsibility. My answer is rather laconic, but not impertinent: representatives of the people ought to be willing to bear responsibility; most of them at present seek this position rather than wait for the position to run them down. Some people are ready to say that the superintendent would be too far removed from the people. Of the one hundred thousand voters in the primary election in 1908, it is safe to assert that twenty thousand of them could not have told on the morning of the election the names of three candidates offering for the office of State Superintendent. It is equally safe to say that several thousand of these voters could not have told a week after the election for whom they voted for that office.

Is it too much to ask that the State Superintendent of Education be given a salary sufficient to command the services of a competent man in the open market? That officer is paid less than the city superintendent in Columbia, Charleston, Sumter, Spartanburg, or Dillon, and the same as the superintendent in Greenwood. Under our present school system, far the most important office is that of County Superintendent. In responsibility and opportunity no other officer approaches him. He holds the key to the situation, and his strength or weakness is everywhere felt. In the past and at present, no other county official has had as much work and responsibility placed on him for as mean remuneration. Considering the beggarly salaries and the low esteem in which the County superintendent has for long been held, one can but marvel at the quality of service these men have rendered. In many counties men of ability and enterprise have held the office and always at a personal sacrifice. However, our system is such as to place the office of county superintendent in a veritable whirlpool of petty politics. The consequence is that often wholly incompetent men aspire to the office, and not infrequently such men are elected. It is but natural that so meager a salary lowers the office in such a way as to attract men of a low order of fitness.

At this moment in one of the counties of the State the county superintendent is being opposed for re-election by a teacher whose certificate had expired and the county superintendent refused to renew it because it could not be done legally. Should this teacher defeat the incumbent, it will be a clear case of a disregard for law triumphing over respect for law. Are not the people of South Carolina, ever boastful of their devotion to common school education, prepared to admit that if our common school system is ever to be a success,

it must have competent and trained supervision? Are we not ready to admit that such supervision will cost something, and are we not prepared to appreciate the fact that such supervisors as we need are not, as a rule, men willing to enter a political campaign begging for votes? Politicians may be depended upon to oppose taking the office of county superintendent out of the campaigns. These politicians know only too well what it would mean to some of them and their friends.

W. H. Hand.

**The Hobbie Skirt.**

There seems to be a crusade, nationwide in its scope, brewing against the present extreme fashions in woman's dress. The Record today is printing elsewhere a collection of interviews with local and eastern ministers on the subject, and they are unanimous in declaring the hobbie skirt, and tight dresses, tend to a decline in morals. We have on other occasions referred to the subject, though our remarks were inspired more or less by a spirit of levity. The question has a very serious side, however. This was emphasized recently when the young man who murdered the little Connors girl in New York, took his life and left a note saying women's make-up had been the cause of his downfall. It is reasonable to suppose that such had been the case. It is reasonable to suppose that a weak mentality might be swayed into the commission of crime, through suggestive dress. We do not condemn the conservative styles, but the extremists. We have noticed that whenever a new style is affected, there are always some who carry it to the extreme. There were so many to take advantage of the tight skirt when it first came into general use, that extreme styles became common, and some dresses which now provoke hardly a glance would have been considered indecent three years ago. The change has been gradual. The wearers of the dresses evidently do not realize it, but there should be more evidence of moderation.

In some of the Eastern cities the women are wearing half hose. Five years ago there could have been no objection raised to it. But half hose and tight skirts do not go well together and especially when the wearer essays to step into an electric car or automobile. If the half hose become common, then the extremists will bring some other style, more extreme, into fashion. We believe the time is auspicious for a reaction or at least a halt.—Columbia Record.

**Body Guard Beard, the Editor.**

Spartanburg Journal. On this campaign the governor of South Carolina goes around the State, from county to county, making his appeals for lawlessness, with a hired man on the stage, carrying a nine shooter. Colt's automatic pistol loaded with steel bullets. This hired man is not paid by the governor of the State but rather out of the money of the taxpayers. He not only gets \$2 a day for toting the gun and assisting his chief but he also gets all expenses paid. He said last night, as he displayed his gun, that he had not put in any claim for his money yet, and did not know whether or not he would, it depended on "circumstances."

But this man has another job too while on this campaign. He is editor of the Greenwood News Scimitar. His name is W. P. Beard. He is the writer of the editorials in the Greenwood paper which some people read. W. P. Beard said that the Journal was wrong in saying that he admitted to Judge Jones that he was armed at the meeting. He nodded his head and this can be construed, according to Beard, as not admitting the fact. But later he did admit it to the reporters. He showed his blue steel Colt and also his commission from the governor which makes him deputy chief constable, appointed to keep order on the platform during the campaign meetings.

Editor Bodyguard Beard wants it stated for him that he is an officer of the law and has a right to carry a pistol. All right, let it go at that. But has the governor of the State a right to spend the people's money for his bodyguard? Has he a right to pay the expenses of a newspaper correspondent, who reports the campaign meetings for the Greenwood News Scimitar, out of the State's funds?

**Red Spider Does Damage.**

It is understood that the Red Spider has made its appearance in various parts of the county and in surrounding counties and is causing the farmers of this section which have been infected serious worry. In some places the farmers have tried to prevent the spread of the insect by destroying the cotton on which it had made its web. It has not yet been ascertained what the farmers in the other sections are doing to relieve their fields of the pest.

**TO SUCCEED PROF. TOMS.**

Jno. C. Daniel, of Manning, is Selected by School Board.

Darlington News and Press.

At a recent meeting of the board of trustees of the Darlington public schools, Mr. John C. Daniel was elected to the position of superintendent of the city schools of Darlington. Mr. Daniel comes here from Manning, where for the past seven years he has been the efficient superintendent. He graduated from Wofford college after which he took a post graduate course at the University of Chicago. He has had sixteen years of experience in public school work.

Mr. Daniel was in the city yesterday and he is very much pleased about being with us this coming session. He is a man of much force and of pleasing address. Mr. Toms' absence will certainly be keenly felt, but still with so efficient a man to fill his place, we feel sure that next session will be conducted along the lines of our previous ones.

**TYRUS ROUTS A TRIO OF THUGS.**

Demand His Cash, But Get a Trouncing.

Syracuse, N. Y., Aug. 12.—Ty Cobb was attacked and stabbed in the back by three unidentified men in Detroit early today while on his way to the train which was to bring him and the Detroit team to this city for an exhibition game this afternoon. Cobb's agility saved him from serious injuries and possible death. His injuries are slight.

Cobb, accompanied by his wife, was driving his automobile to the station when three men ordered the car to halt.

The men were partly intoxicated and when the machine came to a stop Cobb jumped out and began to argue with the men.

The trio then demanded money of the ball player and with the demand all three made a lunge at Cobb.

He attacked the trio and then began a battle royal. One man was knocked down with a blow on the chin, another began to run while the third grabbed Cobb around the neck. They clinched.

While wrestling the thug pulled a knife and inflicted a wound in Cobb's back. Cobb finally shook off his assailant before he could cause any further injury.

Cobb was treated here today on the arrival of the Detroit team. Two stitches were required to close his wound.

**SPENT TOO MUCH MONEY.**

Congressman Catlin, of Missouri, Unseated Monday.

Washington, Aug. 12.—Representative Theron E. Catlin, of Missouri, Republican, was unseated tonight as a member of the House of Representatives and his Democratic opponent, who contested the election, Patrick F. Gill, was seated amid wild enthusiasm from the Democratic side. The vote to unseat Catlin, who was charged with violation of the Missouri law governing campaign expenses, was 121 to 71. Gill was seated by a vote of 106 to 79, with 23 voting present.

Mr. Catlin, just before the first roll call, left the seat he had occupied in the centre of the Republican side of the House and went to his desk, far in the rear. He lifted the desk lid and, using an adjoining chair as a repository removed all of his books and papers. Like a school boy who had been dismissed from the school room, he left the chamber with lagging steps, stopping only to grasp the outstretched hands of sympathetic friends. Three-quarters of an hour later his successful rival stood before the Speaker's desk and took the oath of office.

The case, throughout the seven hours of debate, was bitterly fought on both sides. Representative Anderson, of Missouri, Republican, who conducted the argument in behalf of Mr. Catlin, made a spirited defence.

The charge against Mr. Catlin was that he and his family had spent \$10,200 to elect him to Congress. The Missouri law prohibits an expenditure by candidates of more than \$662. Other charges of fraud were made, all of which Mr. Catlin denied knowledge of. He also denied that he knew of the expenditures made by his father and brother.

It takes a politician to chew the rag and fling mud, but it is the statesman who discusses public questions so the people can become enlightened. Swinging around the circle indulging in slack-jaw and engaging in personalities stirs up men's passions, upsets their reason, and makes of them a lot of factional partisans and political ignoramuses. People cannot get mad and act judiciously on grave questions.—Wilmington Star.

The tennis courts at the Y. M. C. A. are proving quite popular now that they have been completed.

**"GOD AND CAESAR."**

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. GEO. B. CROMER IN GREENWOOD.

Man's Duty to His State Emphasized Speaker Makes an Appeal For True Patriotism in All Elections.

"Public office is a public trust, and public office is not a private political snap."

"Public office is not an opportunity to vent personal spite, nor a chance to protect personal friends."

The above were two of the most striking sentences in the lecture on "God and Caesar," delivered at the court house yesterday afternoon by Dr. George B. Cromer, of Newberry, to an audience of several hundred in which were many ladies. Dr. Cromer spoke in part as follows:

Jesus Christ, remarkable in all things, was especially remarkable for the ability He had in answering questions. The Pharisees, you remember, were opposed to Herod and were bitter in their hatred of the Roman government. On the other hand the Herodians were that class of people who favored Herod and were partisans of Caesar. Consequently when these people came to Christ for an answer to the question: "Is it lawful to pay tribute to Caesar?" they thought they had Him in a trap and that the question could not be answered without His giving offense to one or the other of these two strong parties. But remarkable as he always was in His answers, Jesus Christ answered the question in such a way as to settle all doubts and to confound the questioners: "Render unto Caesar those things which are Caesar's and unto God those things which are God's."

**Our Duties to Caesar.**

What are our duties to Caesar? In the time of Christ, Caesar stood for imperial Rome, the emperor sitting in a palace back in the Eternal city, and for the rule of might. In this age, Caesar stands for the rule of men, for democracy, and for the power of the public. It is a wonderful privilege to be living in a modern Christian country as we are surrounded by all the advantages of this age, and we are quick to appeal to the State and quick to demand the rights which the State owes to us.

What do we owe to Caesar? Our criminal statistics are a disgrace to humanity and a blot upon civilization. Some time ago I was shocked and saddened to find some statistics which told me that for every hour in every day of each of the 365 days in the year there is a murder or a homicide committed in the United States. Think of it! And I have taken the trouble to do some calculating, and I want to show you how good your chances are for escape if you want to kill somebody. If there is anybody that you wish to get rid of, you can look at these figures, and see if you think your chances for escaping are good enough for you to undertake the job. If you want to commit a murder, and do commit one, your chances are better than three to one that you won't be brought to trial. Your chances are better than ten to one that you will not be sent to the penitentiary. Your chances are better than eighty to one that you will not be hanged or electrocuted. We abuse our courts, but in so doing, we are locking the stable door after the horse has been stolen; we build barriers around our property after it has already been despoiled, and we attempt to cure deep-seated heart disease by applying poultices. This disease is deep-seated and popular and can be cured only by deep-seated remedies.

**The Former.**

One of the great educators, Horace Mann, said, "One former is worth a hundred reformers." He spoke the truth. One former, a man or woman who gives shape to character of the child in the home and in the school is better than a hundred reformers who come along later and endeavor by lectures to correct and to reform the character already formed. In the last analysis, what is the state? The teacher whips a pupil at school, and why has she the right to do so? The principal says that she may do so, but who gives him the power? The trustees say that he has the power, but where did they get the right to say so? The legislature gave the trustee a charter, and gave them the right, but who allowed the legislature to do so? The people, the sovereign people of the land who chose the legislature allowed them this right, and in the last analysis, you come back to the people, who are sovereign and who are Caesar. You can go no farther back than that. The governor is not the State, nor are the legislators the State, nor are the judges the State. The people comprise the State, and the governor, the legislators, and the judges are merely those officers appointed by the people, who are the stockholders of the State. On the 27th of this month the stockholders of the State of South Carolina will hold another

meeting and will choose new officers to represent them. In the choosing of these officers, let us remember the old maxim: Water rises no higher than its source. Public office is a public trust, and public office is not a private snap. Public office is not an opportunity to vent personal spite, nor a chance to protect personal friends. I notice many ladies present and I am glad to greet them as citizens, but they are citizens who cannot vote. You men can vote. All of these who have their names on a Democratic club roll will please hold up their hands. (Practically every man held up his hand.) Now, all of you who have county registration tickets please hold up your hands. (Almost every hand went up again.) Well, I am glad to see that. It seems likely that you have had an election in Greenwood county in which you couldn't vote when you didn't have the registration ticket. Your average is better than that found in most places. But it is a democratic absurdity that we make every man who votes in the primary take an oath to support the nominee of that primary when many of those voting have no registration certificate, and are not eligible for voting in the general election. This is a democratic absurdity that we suffer because we want every white man to vote.

Now in the State, you can and must do either one of two things. You can submit to the laws that are made, or you can refuse to do so and suffer. You recall the brave man, Sir Thomas Moore, who in the reign of Henry VIII, would not recognize the king as the head of the church, although Parliament did declare that such was the case. Friends went to Moore as he lay in prison and tried to make him save his life by acknowledging Henry as the head of the English Church. "Oh, no," the brave man replied, "Henry is not the head of the church." "But," replied his friends, "Parliament has declared so." "Yes," replied Moore, "and if Parliament were to declare that God shall not rule, would that make it so?"

We have a remedy for conditions which are wrong, and that remedy is the ballot. I was struck by a statement in a correspondence that recently appeared in the press, "My ballot belongs not to me, but to the State." It is my duty to vote. I have no patience with that man who is so excessively clean that he cannot touch dirty politics, even to the extent of voting. That man ought to go out and start a soap factory, or something of the kind. The ballot is a sacred thing. It not only expresses your choice of a man to fill the offices of the State but it also expresses your character as a man and as a citizen. It represents your standing as a citizen. The man who votes for a bad man knowingly is a bad citizen; the man who does not vote is a dangerous citizen. There are too many good men who are bad citizens, and some of these men are goody, goody men. There are too many negative men, men that do nothing. There is no virtue in a life of doing nothing. We have, too many two-legged ciphers walking our streets. Christianity is something positive, and it is something which does. There are two kinds of patriotism, one which goes to the public treasury with empty pockets, grasping hands to see how much can be extracted from the public offices. The other kind of patriotism is that which goes to the public office with a determination to see how much of life can be given for the good of the people.

**Building for Future.**

We are not building for this generation, but for the future, and we should build a state of which our children and our friends' children may be proud. It will not be long before we cast our last ballot, but we are building for the future. We did not found this State; it came to us from our forefathers, and we must give it to our children, a great State, which stands for the best and highest civilization and government. We not only owe it to the State to pay taxes, but we owe it to the State to cast a pure and an intelligent ballot.

And that finest of all products of Christian education, Woodrow Wilson, in his address when elected president of Princeton University gave his conception of the ideals of a great university and of the purpose of education. He said: "The aim of all education is efficiency, and I fail to see how we can have intellectual efficiency apart from moral efficiency." The aim of education is efficiency, the aim of civil government is efficiency, and it is moral efficiency. This is the efficiency that is able to accomplish those things making for the betterment of our country. Let each one of us go out determined to cast a ballot for our State and that this ballot will be counted one time, and that on the side of right, on the side of moral efficiency.

Miss Fannie Shade of Johnston is among the out-of-town guests for the Garber-Morris wedding.