

BYRGE PRAISES CONSTITUTION.

PAYS REMARKABLE TRIBUTE TO MEN WHO FRAMED IT.

Great Britain's Retiring Ambassador Guest of Honor at Affair Celebrating 125th Anniversary of Framing of Constitution of United States—Presented Gold Medal by Pennsylvania Society—Guests Receive Handsome Copies of Constitution as Souvenirs.

New York, Dec. 14.—In commemoration of the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the framing of the constitution of the United States the Pennsylvania Society held its fourteenth annual dinner here tonight with James Bryce, the retiring British ambassador, as the guest of honor.

Attorney General George W. Wickersham was toastmaster and delivered an address, as did the ambassador. Other speakers were United States Senator William E. Borah, of Idaho, and Job E. Hedges, of New York. A message of congratulations to the Society from President Taft was enclosed in each copy of the souvenir of the evening, a handsomely bound copy of the Constitution of the United States.

A feature of the dinner was the presentation of a gold medal to Mr. Bryce. This medal was founded several years ago by a group of members for the purpose of providing special distinction to any person whom the Society particularly wishes to honor. Its presentation to Ambassador Bryce marks the first time it has been given to any one not a citizen of the United States.

Ambassador Bryce spoke on "The Constitution of the United States." He said, in part:

"The Constitution was the work of an extraordinary group of men, such as has seldom been seen living at the same time in any country, and such as had never been brought together in any other country to undertake the immensely difficult task of framing a fundamental instrument of government for a nation. The nation was then a small one and it is one of the most striking tributes to the genius and foresight of men that that frame of government which they designed for three million people should have proved fitting to serve the needs of 93,000,000.

"What I have to say of the Constitution must refer chiefly to the past, because its provisions seem to be now not so far removed from the field of political controversy, as they have been since 1865. Fortunately there is plenty to be said without trespassing on that controversial field from which my official position debar me.

"The whole of your history since 1789 is a record of the services which the Constitution has rendered to you. It formed anew, or at least it strengthened and developed, for the sentiment was fortunately brought by your ancestors from England, the habit of deference to the law and respect for its forms, with a sense of the value of directing everything by strict methods, which is one of the finest tributes of a free people.

"It taught you to recognize that a free government must be founded upon the sense of right, upon the respect of every man and every community for the rights of every other man and community to the exclusion of all violence. It impressed upon every citizen the sense that the will of the whole people, duly ascertained and acting through the prescribed forms, must prevail. The doctrine of popular sovereignty is a fine and wholesome principle when it is exercised in the duly prescribed and duly observed forms, just as that doctrine may be the source of turmoil and injury to a people which rushes heedlessly to carry out its arbitrary will at the impulse of sudden passion.

"Both the Federal Constitution itself and all those State constitutions, which have been enacted upon similar lines have had the effect of steadying the machinery of government, of slowing down sudden impulses, of securing respect for the rights of every man and every section of the people. Such services would seem to you much more wonderful if it were not that you are so familiar with them. Look at other popular governments and see how much they have suffered from the want of similar safeguards, if you wish fully to realize what your constitutions, Federal and State, have done for you.

Senator Borah, in his speech on "The United States," strongly defended the Constitution, but warned his hearers there was trouble brewing for our present form of government.

"It is idle to assume there are no storms ahead," he declared. "It is useless to seek to conceal the fact that thoughtful and conservative men entertain fears concerning the future of our republican form of government. The supreme test of the Constitution is still in the future."

The Christmas holiday of the City Schools will begin Friday afternoon.

HUNDREDS FREED IN ONE DAY.

GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS SET UP PARDON RECORD.

Donaghey, in Explaining Wholesale Exercise of Clemency, Attacks Conditions in Convict Camp.

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 16.—Gov. Donaghey, who will retire from office January 1, issued pardons today to 316 State and 44 county convicts as a protest against the convict lease system in vogue in this State. As a result three State convict camps will be abolished. Several camps where convicts are engaged in the building of good roads, however, will be continued in operation. The convicts pardoned were serving sentences of from one to 15 years.

The governor in a statement explaining his action in issuing the pardons, scored the convict lease system and magistrates who imposed lengthy sentences for trivial offenses.

The governor in his statement declares reports made to him by special agents of conditions existing on State and county farms "could scarcely be accepted as truth among a civilized people but for the records in the case."

The statement does not give the information secured in detail.

In answer to his critics, whom the governor quotes as having said that a State penitentiary "could not be designed as a Sunday school," he says: "Nor was it designed as a revengeful hell, and in a measure that is what it has resolved itself into."

Of the minor courts Gov. Donaghey says:

"The abuse of power shown by a few individuals acting as justices of the peace is enough to stagger into amazement those who have given the matter no attention."

DEMOCRATS FOR PEACE.

Hopeful of Averting Friction Over Senate Committees and Floor Leadership.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The shadow which has hovered over the Democrats of the Senate, threatening disension and perhaps disorganization after March 4, seems to have lifted.

Instead of factional fights between the progressives and the conservatives over the floor leadership or the chairmanship of this committee or that a get-together spirit has come over the Democrats and a determination reached to work in harmony for a legislative program that will be creditable to the party as a whole.

It is yet possible, of course, that one or two instances of bad feeling may arise among members who do not get what they think they are entitled to in committee assignments, but the movement to oppose the election of Senator Martin, for instance, as floor leader and Senator Simmons as Finance Committee chairman has been abandoned.

The progressive Democrats have not given up without a return, and this return will come in the form of important committee work. The conservatives who happen to be now at the top of a number of committees by reason of seniority will give up some of their important committee seats in favor of the new members and the younger Senators.

As the matter now stands, following innumerable cloak-room conferences, the older Senators are prepared to content themselves with one important chairmanship apiece. They will also take a few second or third rate committee appointments and not seek re-election to all the important committees upon which they happen to be at this time.

The self-effacement on the part of the elders will give the younger Senators a chance to get seats on the big committees and to have an active part in shaping the important legislation that is to signalize the Wilson administration.

This compromise will, it is now believed, result in the re-election of Senator Martin, of Virginia, as caucus chairman and therefore as Democratic floor leader. It will give Senator Simmons the chairmanship of the Finance Committee, but no seat on any other big committee. It will give Senator Tillman the chairmanship of the Commerce or the Naval Affairs Committee, and if he takes the former it will give Senator Smith, of Maryland, the Naval Affairs chairmanship.

The plan has been worked out in the interest of party harmony and to prevent factional fights at the outset of the new administration. As far as could be learned today, it has the approval of practically all the Democrats now in Washington who will sit in the new Senate. To make it effective it is only necessary, therefore, to gain the assent of the new Senators who will come in from private life on March 4.

George Washington advised against "entangling alliances," but couples continue to go right on forming matrimonial alliances.—Wilmington Star.

HELD FOR KILLING.

MOTORISTS IN JAIL ON CHARGE OF CRIMINAL CARELESSNESS.

Action in Holding Automobillists Responsible For Death of Boy Not Expected.

Greenville, Dec. 16.—Following the hearing of testimony this afternoon at the coroner's inquest into the death of Irvin Wrenn, who was run down and killed Saturday afternoon by the automobile of David B. Jenkins, the jury returned a verdict attributing the boy's death to criminal carelessness on the part of Jenkins and his son, Clyde. Coroner Batson issued a warrant and turned it over to the sheriff, who placed father and son under arrest.

Attorneys for the man and his son will appear before Judge Prince at Anderson tomorrow and make application for bail.

The verdict of the coroner's jury came as a distinct surprise to practically everybody connected with the investigation. There was a general feeling that the jury, like the ordinary coroner's panel, would hear a bit of testimony here and there and return a verdict that would not hold any one criminally responsible for the death of the child. But the twelve, most of them laboring men, who left their respective tasks and in overalls came to serve on the jury, retired after hearing the testimony, and for over an hour held one of the stormiest sessions a coroner's jury has been known to hold in Greenville county. Having finished their deliberations they filed out of the room and went back to their labors, leaving with the coroner the verdict that they had reached. News of the jury's finding soon spread through the streets, and there was a general feeling of satisfaction over the fact that for once a coroner's jury had made a thorough inquiry and taken notable action.

No new facts were brought out at the investigation. Jenkins was represented by one of the leading law firms of the city, while another prominent firm represented the State. R. A. Cooper, solicitor of the Eighth circuit, who is a brother of the dead child's mother, took an active interest in the investigation.

The incident has created no little feeling throughout the county, and while the public seems to realize that the killing of the child was accidental, there is condemnation of the manner in which the occupants of the car acted after running down the child.

PERISHABLES BY PARCELS POST.

Handled for Short Distance Only When Properly Boxed.

Washington, Dec. 13.—According to regulations governing the parcel post system, promulgated by Postmaster General Hitchcock, perishable articles may be sent through the mails only under specific conditions as to their containers and the distance they are to be sent.

Butter, lard, fish, fresh meats, dressed fowls, vegetables, fruits, berries and similar articles likely quickly to decay, may be sent for short distances, when securely packed. Eggs will be accepted for local delivery when packed properly in a container, and for any distance when each egg is separately packed in a secure manner.

Fragile articles, including millinery, toys, musical instruments and articles of glass, in whole or in part, must be securely packed and marked "fragile."

Articles that may not be sent by parcel post including intoxicating liquors of all kinds; poisons, poisonous animals, insects, or reptiles, explosives of every kind; inflammable articles, including matches, infernal machines; pistols or revolvers; disease germs; any obscene, defamatory or scurrilous matter now prohibited by law, live or dead animals, birds or live poultry; raw hides or pelts, or anything having a bad odor.

Books and printed matter may not be forwarded at parcel post rates; but only at pound rates of third-class matter.

A committee of railroad officials today petitioned the House postoffice committee for a rearrangement of weighing and pay for transporting mails. The railroad men set out that they did not contemplate carrying the parcel posts when their present contracts were made, and declared as a matter of contract they were not obliged to accept packages weighing more than four pounds.

How to Bankrupt the Doctors.

A prominent New York physician says "If it were not for the thin stockings and thin soled shoes worn by women the doctors would probably be bankrupt." When you contract a cold do not wait for it to develop into pneumonia but treat it at once. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is intended especially for coughs and colds, and has won a wide reputation by its cures of these diseases. It is most effectual and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by all dealers.—Advt.

Our Prize Contest

1st Prize—Dinner Set.
2nd Prize—Dinner Set.
3rd 10 prizes each of a 4-lb Pound Cake with Royal Icing.

Present Your Labels on
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Xmas Orders:

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SAVE THE BUTTERNUT LABELS FOR A NICE "DINNER SET."

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LESS.

WHITE PUPILS 3 PER CENT LOSS, NEGROES 10 PER CENT.

Report of State Superintendent of Education, J. E. Swearingen, Shows Discouraging Conditions—Several Explanations of Figures—Difficulty of Securing Accurate Reports from Counties—Other Points of Interest Regarding Schools.

Columbia, Dec. 15.—"These figures show a loss during the year of 6,962 white pupils in 31 counties and a parallel loss of 21,580 negro pupils in 31 counties. Fourteen counties report a loss of more than 10 per cent from the negro enrollment of last year. Twelve counties report an aggregate white gain of 1,916 ranging from 1 to 9 per cent. Eleven counties report an aggregate negro gain of 2,343, ranging from 1 to 22 per cent," is the startling statement made by State Superintendent of Education in his annual report, which he has prepared for submission to the General Assembly, in which he reviews the school system of South Carolina, its needs and its present system.

The report shows that there was a loss last year over the preceding year of 3 per cent in the enrolment of white children and a loss for the same period of 10 per cent in the enrolment of the negro children. The enrolment of white children for the year just closed was 156,303, and the negro children 175,599, making a total of 331,999. The decrease of 3 per cent in the enrolment of white children and a decrease of 10 per cent in the enrolment of negro children is the startling feature of the annual report of the State Superintendent of Education J. E. Swearingen. It is noted that in Charleston County there are reported 4,261 white pupils, a decrease of 43 under last year, and 7,287 negroes, an increase of 739 over last year.

Six possible reasons are suggested for this decrease in enrolment; First previous experience of the greater majority of the county superintendents of education, enabling them to get at the facts better; second, the installation of a school ledger by the State Superintendent in every county superintendent's office, securing uniformity in school bookkeeping and school reports; third, the detailed report on school statistics printed one year ago by the State Superintendent, promoting the efficiency and diligence of the school officers; fourth, the severity of the last winter, keeping pupils from a distance away from the schools; fifth, the bumper cotton crop of the last year causing many people to keep their children away from the schools to gather the crop; sixth, the text book changes of last year, preventing many of the poorer people from paying for the change in the school books and thus keeping the children at home and cutting down the attendance. "Nevertheless, the disagreeable fact remains that a normal increase of 3,000 whites and 4,000 negroes turned last year into a net loss of 4,550 whites and 18,133 negroes," says the report.

The difficulty in getting prompt reports from teachers leads the Superintendent to suggest that any teacher who does not make out a complete and full report within two weeks after the close of the school term be subject to a fine of \$25 and forfeiture of his teacher's certificate. The importance of making prompt reports is emphasized in order to enable the State Superintendent to get full information and prepare his annual report promptly.

The differences and disparities between various school districts would be lessened if there was a State tax for schools, in the opinion of the Superintendent Swearingen. There is a 3-mill constitutional tax amounting to about \$1,000,000, apportioned among the schools according to enrolment.

Speaking of the trouble of the school with one teacher to keep accurate statistics Superintendent Swearingen says: "Of the 2,635 white schools in the State, 1,910 employ one teacher, 253 two teachers, 95 three teachers and 197 more than three teachers. The situation in the 2,441 negro schools is even worse. Two thousand, two hundred and seventy-two of these schools have one

teacher, 103 two teachers, 23 three teachers. Close and accurate graduation, therefore, seems impossible in 76 per cent of the white schools, difficult in 13 per cent and reasonable in 11 per cent. Such graduation seems impossible in 93 per cent of the negro schools, difficult in 4 per cent, and reasonable in 3 per cent."

The impossibility of the rural school with a larger enrolment and employing only one teacher and frequently this teacher without previous experience, keeping accurate enrolment by grades, by branches of study, etc., is pointed out. The tendency to pad the enrolment because the size of the salary depends on the enrolment is condemned. Many other matters of vital importance to the public system is touched on in the report, which will be laid before the General Assembly.

BAIL GRANTED TO JENKINS.

Judge Prince Admits Greenville County Automobillists to Bond in Sum of \$1,500 Each.

Anderson, Dec. 17.—At chambers today Judge Prince named bail in amounts of \$1,500 each for David B. Jenkins and his son, Clyde Jenkins, who in their automobile ran over and killed young Wrenn in Greenville Saturday afternoon. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of criminal carelessness, which is equivalent to manslaughter. Coulter Cothran represented the defendants, while Gen. M. L. Bonham represented the State.

PELLAGRA IS SPREADING IN THE UNITED STATES.

Over 30,000 Victims Have Been Claimed in Six Years Disease Has Been Known.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Pellagra is spreading in the United States and in the six years it has been known to medical authorities has claimed not less than 30,000 victims with a fatality rate in excess of 10 per cent, according to a report of the public health service today.

"It has reached the dignity of a public health question of national importance, says the report.

The report gives the figures by States for 1907-11.

Virginia—Total cases, 628; deaths, 349; death rate per hundred cases, 55 per cent.

North Carolina—Cases, 2,412; deaths, 1,067; rate, 44 per cent.

South Carolina—Cases, 1,880; deaths, 682; rate, 31 per cent.

Georgia—Cases, 4,558; deaths, 1,582; rate, 34 per cent.

Kentucky—Cases 531; deaths, 220; rate, 43 per cent.

Alabama—Cases, 2,314; deaths, 859; rate, 37 per cent.

Mississippi—Cases, 2,895; deaths, 1,250; rate, 43 per cent.

Louisiana—Cases, 670; deaths, 296; rate, 44 per cent.

The figures show pellagra either prevalent or sporadic in the greater part of the United States, but particularly serious in the South.

The following statement by Associate Justice C. A. Woods, of Marion, in the course of an address at Dillon should make every thoughtful man and woman in South Carolina determine to lend all of the strength of his or her influence to the cause of compulsory education: "For every one hundred people in South Carolina there are ten above the age of ten years who cannot read or write; in Louisiana, there are fourteen; and in North Carolina there are 12 per cent illiterate. By these figures it will be seen that South Carolina stands third from the bottom in illiteracy. The average of illiteracy for the United States is 5 per cent of the population; thus it will be seen that South Carolina has two to one when compared with the general average. The demand for education begins with the child when six or seven years old and continues to the grave; and just to the extent that education is discontinued will that man be a peril to the community in which he lives."—Chester Reporter.

The work on the new turntable and cinder pit is proceeding steadily. The piles have been driven down and the concrete for the foundation for the turntable is now being put in.

W. J. BRYAN AT FLORENCE.

GREAT COMMONER HAS CONFIDENCE IN WILSON.

Esteem Increases as Acquaintance With the President-elect Grows. Will Win Public Approval.

Florence, Dec. 17.—William Jennings Bryan passed through the city this morning going to Winston-Salem from Wilmington, where he had spoken last night. He goes from Winston-Salem to Asheville.

He is of course a marked man wherever he travels and travels as a Democrat in the regular coaches or a Pullman where he can write his editorials for The Commoner or make up speeches to thrill the country with.

He was very anxious to see the morning papers of this State when he got here and to get a breakfast at the famous eating house.

He was spoken to by many admirers, and entered with genuine pleasure into the discussions at the station. He would have made a speech if the time had been long enough, and the crowd around him willing to let him get away.

To the correspondent of The State he said that he would not care to express an opinion on the personnel of the cabinet. He smiled at the stories told of his having a private office in Washington, and other stories that are in circulation make reading for the yellow journals.

He would not comment, either, on the suggestion of the demand of the world for him to be the head of the department of state in this country on the grounds that it would mean the peace of the world.

He had nothing to say of the appeal that seems to be made by the Balkan allies for the aid of America in their fight for fair and just terms of peace with Turkey. He said that he did not know enough of the real situation to be quoted.

He did talk, however, of the outlook for the Democratic party, and the prospective administration of Gov. Wilson. He said that Gov. Wilson came into office under circumstances that were unusual and most favorable. Not only has he the entire confidence of the Democratic party, but he has the confidence of the Republicans as well. The Taft men rejoice that he has defeated Roosevelt, and the Roosevelt men rejoice that he has defeated Taft, so that all wish him well. "My confidence in him," he said, "has grown as my acquaintance with him has increased. He has two things essential to enable him to win the approval of the public. First he is conscientious—that is, he seeks the approval of his own conscience in what he does, and second his sympathies are with the masses. With these two points fixed, we can draw a line on a public man just as a surveyor can draw a line on the earth when he has two points fixed."

In regard to the investigations now going on in congress and the effect of this short session on the Democratic party and its chances of success, he said that they were doing a great deal of good, the public must be informed before it acts, and the light that the investigations are throwing on the money trust will enable congress to act on the subject with more intelligence. The evidence shows the enormous power of a few men and their influence to be so wide and all pervading. It is also made plain how necessary some remedial legislation is, which is the great result of the inquiry.

Then with one of his bright and soul cheering smiles he asked the reporter if that were not enough and if he would not let him reserve something for the next reporter that he met.

Sumter needs a creamery to produce sufficient butter for home consumption worse than anything else, except a canning factory. But before either is established there must come a revolution in farming methods. Farmers will have to keep many more dairy cows to supply the cream for a creamery and must grow truck for the cannery. There exists a need for both enterprises and a local market for the output, but the raw material is lacking.