

**SCHOOL PRIZES AWARDED.**

**FORTY-THREE SCHOOLS SHARE IN THE DISTRIBUTION.**

**Committee Reports on Improvement—State Association Has Done Much During Year to Better Rural Schools**

Columbia, Dec. 21.—Prizes were awarded by the executive committee of the South Carolina School Improvement association, which met in Columbia. The committee received applications from 355 schools from 35 counties. These applications showed a total expenditure of \$306,746.69 for school betterment. The past year was the most successful in the history of the South Carolina School Improvement association. The association raised and spent \$18,162.90 for the improvement of schools in the State.

The schools winning first prizes of \$50 each offered by the association were: Dunbarton, Barnwell county; Sully Plain, Calhoun county; Cornwell, Chester county; Mt. Croghan, Chesterfield county; Auburn, Darlington county; Minturn, Dillon county; Harleyville, Dorchester county; Gray Court-Owings, Laurens county; West Middle, Orangeburg county; Disputanta, Spartanburg county.

Additional prize, a Smyth system heater, valued at \$100, given by the Smyth System Heating company, awarded to Hunter-DeWalt, Newberry county.

The schools winning second prizes of \$25 each were: Cattle Creek, Dorchester county; Hammon, Anderson county; Turbeville, Clarendon county; Picket Post, Oconee county; Shamrock, Kershaw county; Mitford, Fairfield county; West Dunklin, Greenville county; Donalds, Abbeville county; Pleasant Hill, Lancaster county; Mt. Zion, Edgefield county; Coronaca, Greenwood county; Red Knoll, Lexington county; Elliott, Lee county; Double Bridges, Richland county; Ruarah, Pickens county; Murrell's Inlet, Georgetown county; Wittee, Williamsburg county; Stateburg, Sumter county; Wampee, Horry county; Cotton Belt, York county; Celestia, Saluda; Stokes, Colleton county; Zion, Pickens county; St. Lukes, Newberry county; Dovesville, Darlington county; Rock Bridge, Laurens county; Pleasant Hill, Dillon county; Laurel Creek, Greenville county; Barker's Creek, Anderson county; Hanesport, Kershaw county.

Additional prizes—Woodland Spring sanitary fountain, from the Dial Steel Products company, valued at \$14, awarded to Mack's school, Lexington county; Foster's historical chart and a 13-inch slated globe, from the Rand McNally company, valued at \$25, awarded to Canaan school, Orangeburg county.

"The School Improvement association has made a splendid showing," said J. E. Swearingen, State superintendent of education, when he was asked for his opinion about its work during the last year. "It has given the kind of cooperation that counts."

The showing of the association was made possible through the efforts of workers all over the State. The 700 school improvement associations working in as many communities have rendered during the year the highest type of voluntary cooperation for the cause of education. The last general assembly made it possible, through a direct appropriation, to put the organization on a more efficient basis.

The members of the executive committee of the State School Improvement association present at the meeting yesterday were: Miss Mary Eva Hill, president; Miss Indore Williams, corresponding secretary, of Liberty; Miss Madeline Spigener, recording secretary, of St. Matthews; Miss Corinne Dickinson of Summerville; Miss V. L. Gray of Laurens; Miss Laddie Cogans of Newberry; Miss Elizabeth DeWalt of Lexington.

**MONEY FROM BELGIAN BANKS.**

**So-called Langtag Session Deliberates Concerning War Levy of \$96,000,000 in 12 Months.**

London, Dec. 21.—A Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam says:

"Under pressure from the German authorities nine Belgian provinces sent representatives to Brussels, who on Saturday held a so-called langtag session. It is asserted that this diet deliberated concerning a war levy of \$96,000,000, which must be paid to the German government in 12 monthly installments, and agreed to issue bonds, guaranteed by the nine provinces. A group of bankers, headed by the Belgian Societe Generale, undertook to advance the money, it is said. The German governor general promised that all requisitioned goods would be paid for in cash if the installments were regularly received."

**HEAVY FALL OF SLEET.**

**Ties up Train and Wire Service in New York and Pennsylvania.**

New York, Dec. 21.—Heavy sleet in New York and Pennsylvania today has demoralized train and wire service.

**MAYTORENA MOVES BACK.**

**WILL RETIRE SEVERAL MILES SO BULLETS WILL NOT CROSS BORDER.**

**No Shots Were Fired Saturday and It Is Thought That Mexican Troops Have Moved Further From Border.**

Washington, Dec. 20.—Consular Agent Carothers telegraphed the state department today that Gov. Maytorena commanding the Villa forces besieging Naco, Sonora, was preparing to withdraw his troops 10 or 12 miles from the border, to eliminate the possibility of further firing into American territory.

Brig. Gen. Bliss, commanding the artillery, infantry and cavalry concentrated about Naco, Ariz., to enforce the American government's demand that firing across the line cease, reported that Maytorena apparently had withdrawn. This, however, has not been verified.

As a result of these reports, officials here were confident tonight that the troublesome border situation was about to be cleared up. It is understood that when Mr. Carothers conferred with Maytorena yesterday he was given a complete outline of the Villa leaders' plans for withdrawal.

Enrico Lorente representative here of Provisionary President Gutierrez, made public tonight a telegram from his chief, quoting a message the latter had received from Gov. Maytorena yesterday announcing that the force besieging Naco had been ordered withdrawn to a "convenient distance." In obedience to instructions from the capital, Maytorena reported his troops did not fire a shot at Naco yesterday, although several casualties in their ranks were caused by fire from the Naco garrison.

**SCOTT BEGINS INVESTIGATION.**

**Inquiry Into Killing of Five Persons at Naco is Now Under Way.**

Naco, Ariz., Dec. 20.—Brig. Gen. Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the United States army, arrived here today and began an investigation of the killing of five persons and the wounding of 47 by bullets fired by Mexicans besieging Naco, Sonora. Gen. Scott expects soon to meet Gen. Hill, the Carranza commander, entrenched in Naco, and later Gen. Maytorena. He will probably be accompanied by Gen. Bliss, commanding the American forces here. The troops here are Eleventh, Eighteenth and Twenty-second infantry, 10 troops each of the Ninth and Tenth cavalry and three batteries each of the Fifth and Sixth field artillery.

Gen. Scott conferred today with several persons informed on Mexican affairs, including agents in touch with Hill and Maytorena.

Gen. Bliss said tonight that observers on duty along the border had reported no change in the positions of the Mexican troops. The force attacking Naco kept up a desultory fire. A number of bullets fell on the American side.

**PEACE BY ALL MEANS.**

**Carranza Will Respect Wishes of United States.**

Vera Cruz, Dec. 20.—Gen. Carranza in a statement today intended for the American press said that while it may be necessary for the constitutionalists to evacuate additional towns, he wished to maintain friendly terms with the United States and would give every possible protection to foreign interests.

Luis Cabrera, Carranza minister of finance, accompanied by two other cabinet officials and Gen. Obregon, today paid an informal visit of courtesy to the American battleship Rhode Island, where they were received by the admiral.

The battleship Texas left Tampico last night for New York. The Culgoa, which arrived here yesterday, also departed for New York.

Followers of Carranza say they have received news of a break between Villa and Gen. Angeles.

**BATTLE IS EXPECTED.**

**Carranza and Villa Will Clash Soon. Each Has Large Force.**

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 20.—A battle between large forces of Carranza and Villa troops is expected to occur shortly at San Pedro, east of Torreon, according to advices here today.

A telegram from Tampico said 4,600 Carranza troops were being rushed to San Pedro. Gen. Angeles, Villa's artillery chief, left Mexico City for Torreon several days ago with a large number of cannon. Villa himself, who last week entered Guadalajara, is expected to return north to direct the movement.

The County Board of Commissioners should, if possible, do more permanent road work next year than ever before. Labor will be more abundant and cheaper than in recent years. There are many able bodied laborers seeking work, and if they do not find it they will be on the charity list.

**REVIVAL MEETING.**

**Caldwell Street Hall, Next Door to Southern Express Office.**

From The Daily Item, Dec. 21.

Three times yesterday, B. F. McLendon preached to crowded houses; and over 100 professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ during the day.

The interest is growing in every service. Last night the large hall was packed to its full capacity, and many people had to go away.

Crowds of people were here from the adjacent towns.

Mayor Epperson of Pinewood made a talk, and told what McLendon's revival last February meant to his town; how blind tigers that used to peddle whiskey on the streets, are respectable men today and leaders in their churches. Men who were looked upon as crooks and dishonest men, are now honorable citizens; and homes that had been made miserable by sin are now happy.

Mr. Cain from Paxville also made a short talk.

He is the express agent at that place. He said that McLendon's revival had just about broken up the whiskey business in that community and that less whiskey comes to his town than to any station on the road.

**Extracts from McLendon's Sermons.**

It does not matter if you are so low down, you have to feel up to touch bottom; Jesus Christ can grapple with your case, and though it may be difficult, He can make you a new creature.

If some people in the town of Sumter would take back what they have stolen and robbed and hogged people out of, they wouldn't have enough left to make a pair of leggings for a humming bird.

The dance is the rottenest, most hellish, devilshest vice-producing institution that ever wriggled and squirmed from the depths of perdition.

The church of God forbids it. The greatest and most spiritual churches forbid it; both Catholic and Protestant. I know that there are some churches that tolerate it. They don't encourage it; and an church that encourages it, is too low down to deserve the name of church.

Bishop Cox of New York said, "The enormities of the theatre and dance would not be tolerated anywhere else, if the mothers would only set their faces against them, and educate their daughters from these contaminations."

We have lowered the standard of a lot of our churches, so that almost any old hog can come rooting around and get in.

God Almighty never intended for His church to be a clearing house for the world.

The dancing church member never was a soul winner; and dancing is nothing more nor less than a hugging match, set to music.

The dance is conducive to immorality.

In the dance and on the ball room floor, you allow liberties to men that you never allow them elsewhere.

You grant men liberties on the ball room floor, that if a man other than your husband would attempt in your home, and your husband would find you at it; he would have no trouble in securing a divorce, if there were divorce laws, and if he shot the man, no jury in the world would convict him for it.

Doesn't the swing of the dance around the corners, throw men and women into positions that are not tolerated elsewhere?

People say that you are too severe in your strictures regarding the dance. "Positions have changed." Yes, I read that they have. I read the other day a report that said, the devotee of the waltz ought to be satisfied with latest position, entitled, "The Dream," which brings the body into such close contact that a case knife could not pass between them. At one time when they danced the stately cotillions, you could get a piece of cord wood between them; but now you couldn't get a piece of tissue paper.

I read the other day that sitting out a waltz; that is going to be fashionable from now on. The only difference is that you will sit it out instead of dancing it. A young man and girl will sit on the sofa, and he will put his right arm about her and her left hand in his, and she rests her head upon his bosom, and all they have to do is sit there and hug. I tell you there is some sense in that. I have always considered it a nuisance to gallop a mile to just get a hug or two.

Most men do not care a rap for the dance. It is the hug they are after. There is another advantage in this. It gives you old rheumatic neighbors a chance.

Professor Faulkner was a dancing professor in Oakland, California. He made \$1,000 a month out of his classes. He said that out of one class there were eight girls who became prostitutes as a direct result of the dance; and he quit it, because he saw what the dance was doing, right in Oakland.

Eighty in Oakland out of 200 girls

taken at random from the brothels; there were 163 who were there through dancing; 29 through drinking, 19 from willful choice and 7 because poverty and abuse had driven them to it.

Where do you find your most accomplished dancers? In the brothels. The girls in these places do not come from the poor classes, not by a long shot. They are girls, in many instances, from the upper crust of so-called society; girls who have taken dancing lessons.

Jean Cowles, who has charge of the work for fallen girls, declared before the Chicago councilmen, that her inventory shows that 50 per cent of the fallen girls fall because of the dance. Upon her statement, which opened the eyes of the authorities, dance hall licenses were refused.

Oh, you say, "I go to the private dances. I don't go to the free-for-alls." The free-for-alls have you beat a mile. Why? Because they wear more clothes than you do.

The chief of police of New York city says, that three-fourths of the fallen women in that city went wrong first through the dance. There are 500,000 public prostitutes in the United States; and to think that 350,000 of them lost their virtue through the dance!

The dance is based on the consciousness of sex.

You say, "Can't a fellow dance with his own wife or sister?" His who? His wife or sister? Why, you would just as soon kiss a shoat in the light of the moon, behind a barbed wire fence, as to dance with your wife or sister.

You say, you need the exercise of dancing. Well then, let the women dance with women, and the men dance with men. Under such arrangements, the dance would not last two weeks, and you know it. I believe that passion is the basis of the dance popularity today. Men drink, gamble, and they go to the race tracks. This they do without their wives, or without other people's wives. Then why can't they dance without their wives, or other people's wives, if it is all right and the exercise is the thing they want.

"Dancing brings vice and virtue into too close contact; and virtue loses."

Well, what do you think of the Boll Weevil Wiggle, the Texas Tommie Tangle, the Blue Bird, the Bear Dance, the Hat Dance, the Buzzard Dance, the Snake Dance, the He Stabbed Me Dance, the Frog Walk, and the Snake Dance? These are disgusting, revolting, demoralizing and are

the last sighs of dying modesty.

You say, "I get mad, but it is all over in a minute." Yes, a shot gun is all over in a minute too; but everything is torn up in front of it.

Some of you people must put your nose on your back track and clean up your past life, before you ever get within a thousand miles of the religion of Jesus Christ.

To multitudes of people nowadays, it costs nothing to come into the church; and it costs nothing to go out. They give up nothing when they come in; and leave nothing behind when they go out.

One of the reasons why we have got such a sickly, sentimental, mildewed, perfunctory crop of so-called believers in the churches; who can get up enthusiasm for a theatre or dance, but are not there when there is a prayer meeting; and are conspicuous by their absence when Christianizing evangelization is on hand; is because they were not born right. They skip the main business.

This is enough to hurt your feelings, ain't it? Your feelings! The less sense a fellow has; the more feelings he has.

If men would only seek God the way they seek health, there wouldn't be a sinner on earth.

If men would seek God as hard as they seek wealth, there wouldn't be a man in hell or on the way there now.

You may call me narrow, but narrowness means concentration, and con-

centration means power.

Let us be honest, and take a look at your past lives which are strewn with broken promises to God.

It is one thing to say, "I know the right," but it is another thing to say, "I am honestly seeking to do it."

A spurious repentance means a spurious Christian life; and the man who dodges this, dodges the whole business.

It is no good to sing on Sunday with your face toward the Cross; and on Monday, with your feet toward your whiskey drinking, poker playing, social club.

God pity the children who are brought into the world by whiskey soaked, nicotine-poisoned parents.

I admire the spirit that makes a man so forget himself, his position and reputation, in his longing enthusiasm and infinite hankering after God and Eternal life; to do anything, in order that he might see.

This man sought, and every man who finds will have to seek. No man finds without seeking.

Some people say, "Mack, you rub the fur the wrong way." Well, Old Tom Cat, turn around, and I'll rub it the right way.

The stores will be closed and business suspended both Friday and Saturday on account of Christmas.

The Sumter County corn club boys should join the pig club and each one raise a prize hog next year.

**Holiday Excursion Rates**

Tickets on sale December 16th to 25th inclusive, and December 31st, 1914 and January 1st 1915, with final limit January 6th 1915.

Between all points on the Atlantic Coast Line and Connecting Lines.

**Atlantic Coast Line**

"The Standard Railroad of the South"

O. V. Player, Agent, Sumter, S. C.



**A Bulletin of Interest to Belated Xmas Shoppers!**

**We still have Large Stocks of Gift-Things to choose from. You will not be disappointed if you do all of your Xmas Shopping now—at This Store.**

☞ Your "last minute" Christmas shopping can be done most satisfactorily at this store. We have a large force of salespeople to wait upon you, and it is our aim to offer you just as good service and as prompt attention as at any time of the year.

☞ Don't wait! Come now---TO-DAY---and finish your Christmas shopping.

**O'Donnell & Co.**