

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETS.

SENATE ORGANIZED AND GOV. BLEASE'S ANNUAL MESSAGE READ.

House Convened and Unanimously Elects J. A. Hoyt of Columbia, Speaker—Gibbs Leads in Race for Clerk of House on Fourth Ballot.

Columbia, Jan. 12.—The senate was organized today with the selection of Senator LeGrand Walker of Georgetown, as president pro tem. All of the other officials were re-elected. The annual message of Gov. Blease was read. Senator Manning wanted no legislation considered except appropriations and for the members to receive only \$5 per day, but this went over on objection of Senator Earle. An invitation to visit Winthrop College on January 20th was received from the college authorities.

Four ballots without result were taken in the race for clerk of the house today. On the final ballot Gibbs of Columbia led. The house then recessed until 4.30 o'clock. Mr. Hoyt of Columbia was unanimously elected speaker.

Columbia, Jan. 13.—In a decidedly business-like manner the general assembly of South Carolina organized yesterday for its 71st session. The refusal of the senate to accept an invitation to visit Winthrop college January 20 is taken by observers as an indication that the upper house is resolved to waste as little time as possible. A significant incident in the house of representatives yesterday was the applauding of a reference in the speaker's address to the necessity for passing a compulsory school attendance law.

The senate was called to order at noon by Charles A. Smith of Timmonsville, retiring lieutenant-governor. The senate, acting under the caucus of Monday night, elected, LeGrand Walker of Georgetown its president pro tempore and M. M. Mann of Mt. Matthews its clerk. In addition to the annual message, the senate received from the governor a special message recommending the continuance of the State warehouse system started under an act of the October special session. The senate debated the question of going to Winthrop and finally decided not to do so, after an hour of discussion. The senate will meet today at noon.

The most interesting feature of the organization sessions of the house yesterday morning and afternoon was the hotly contested election for clerk. J. Wilson Gibbs of Columbia, who had a lead on the first ballot, was finally elected after the roll had been called nine times. As had been anticipated, James A. Hoyt of Columbia was made speaker without opposition. In a brief speech he outlined his views on important measures which will be introduced shortly. Members applauded him when he said that the general assembly could not afford to ignore the passage of a compulsory school attendance law, under the injunction laid down by the voters in the last primaries.

The house passed unanimously a resolution introduced by Mr. Bringham of Aiken, felicitating President Wilson on his administration. The resolution commended the president in the highest terms, praised the Simmons-Underwood tariff bill and congratulated the nation's chief executive on his policy as regards Mexico.

Important amendments proposed to the rules of the last house caused the house yesterday to defer their adoption until today. One of the amendments offered makes it impossible to carry on a filibuster such as blocked for a number of days the passage of the bond issue bill in the house during the special session.

Another amendment does away with the limitation on the number of members on committees, leaving this to the discretion of the speaker. The indications are that a fight will be made on this amendment, to the end that not more than 13 members can be appointed on the more important committees and not more than nine on the others.

In the house the annual message of the governor was received immediately after the chief executive was notified of the organization of the body. The reading of the message was interrupted by a motion to adjourn until 11:45 o'clock this morning. The message will not be printed in the journal, under a special order from the house, until it has been read in full.

Columbia, Jan. 13.—A concurrent resolution fixing February 13th as the date for sine die adjournment was adopted by the senate this morning, the declared purpose of the upper body being to get through as soon as possible with this year's work. Among the bills introduced were one by Senator Carlisle to prevent "tipping" and one by Senator Beamguard to provide for circulating libraries. Two bills to repeal the cotton acreage reduction act appeared in the

house today. The house organization was perfected and the house meets again at 4.30 this afternoon to transact business.

Columbia, Jan. 12.—Striking recommendations concerning the government of the State Hospital for the Insane and the Confederate Home are contained in the annual report of the committee of the general assembly on penal and charitable institutions. The report has been completed and will be sent to the general assembly this week. The members of the committee making the investigation of the State's institutions are O. L. Sanders, of York; J. W. Bowers, of Greenwood, and W. H. Sharpe, of Lexington.

The committee finds that it is very necessary that a definite policy be decided upon for the State Hospital for the insane. If State Park is not to be improved then the efforts of the State should be directed toward the development of the property in Columbia, the committee finds.

The committee in strong terms denounces nepotism, which is alleged to exist at the asylum.

It is recommended that stringent laws be adopted for the government of the asylum and that a definite head of the institution be named. The report says that every man seems to be "head unto himself."

The committee calls attention to certain increases in salaries. It is claimed that this action was unwarranted.

The committee condemns the alleged wholesale purchase of whiskey for use at the asylum. One purchase amounted to thirty gallons, which is too much, in the opinion of the committee.

The committee recommends that the position of superintendent of the Confederate Home be abolished and that the duties be devolved upon the commandant. It is held that the salary of the superintendent is wasted. The salary is \$1,200 a year.

Columbia, Jan. 14.—A bill to repeal the act creating the State cotton warehouse system was introduced in the house yesterday by Mr. Warren of Hampton. The warehouse system with John L. McLaurin as State warehouse commissioner was brought into being at the special session of the general assembly last October.

Mr. Warren said yesterday that he would offer an amendment to the bill later to set forth the manner in which the affairs of the State warehouse system should be wound up. The bill was referred to the committee on agriculture.

Discussing this bill and his reasons for introducing it, Mr. Warren said last night:

"I would abolish the system because I think it reeks with politics. Only about 3 per cent. of the State's cotton crop is stored in the warehouses. No practical benefits are resulting to the people. I regard the proposition as one involving mainly the creation of offices at the expense of the small farmers."

Columbia, Jan. 14.—"House bill No. 1" in the general assembly is a measure to compel the attendance at school of all children between the ages of 8 and 13 years, after a majority of the electors of a county have voted in favor of compulsory education. The bill, the first presented in the house, was offered yesterday by Mr. Harper of Darlington, who fathered the compulsory school attendance bill passed at the last session by the house.

The new bill by Mr. Harper provides for holding elections at some day to be fixed, in which the electors will vote "For compulsory attendance" or "Against compulsory attendance." In counties in which a majority vote in favor of compulsory attendance is cast, the law shall go into effect. The bill authorizes counties that reject the law at the special election to vote upon it at subsequent general elections.

The Harper bill says that children of the ages specified shall be kept in the public school nearest their home for the entire term unless excused for physical disability or unless the labor of the child is necessary to the support of its parents. The school trustees of the district are authorized to buy books and suitable clothing for children whose parents are unable to pay for them. A penalty is placed upon parents who do not send their children to school. The law is to be operated under the direction of the county superintendents of education and the school trustees of the districts in the counties that adopt it.

Postmaster at Rembert. Washington, Jan. 13.—Among the fourth class postmasters for South Carolina appointed today was Mary G. Rembert, at Rembert, Sumter county, vice E. E. Rembert.

Now is the time to prepare to have a supply of fresh eggs next fall and winter—get off as many chickens as possible as early as possible and raise a big bunch of pullets. The early hatched pullets are the winter layers.

MEXICANS RETAIN GUTIERREZ.

SAID TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED BY CONVENTION IN MEXICO.

Named to Succeed Himself and to Fill Out Term of Former President Diaz—Villa to Push Campaign.

Mexico City, Jan. 13 (via El Paso).—It is reported that the national convention has renamed Gen. Eulalio Gutierrez provisional president. Gen. Gutierrez will serve the unexpired term of Gen. Porfirio Diaz, which expires in November, 1915.

The reappointment of Gen. Gutierrez as provisional president is understood to have the full support of Gen. Villa. Its acceptance, however, by followers of Gen. Zapata was held in doubt by Villa followers here. Gutierrez would become the third president to attempt to complete a single six-year term of office.

STARTS IN EARNEST. Villa Begins Operations Expected to Crush Carranza Faction.

Washington, Jan. 13.—Official advices reaching the United States government from Mexico today indicated that Gen. Villa, in command of all the forces of the Gutierrez government, has begun in earnest the campaign which he hopes will force the Carranza faction to capitulate.

Eight thousand men under Gen. Angeles have been dispatched by Villa to join in attack on Tampico. They were moving through San Luis Potosi today, according to consular dispatches.

From information received tonight by Carranza agency here, Gen. Pablo Gonzales, commanding the Tampico district, has been reinforced by 9,000 men under Gen. Cezaro Castro, which, together with forces under Gen. Villareal and Gen. Herrera, makes a total of 25,000 men. The same dispatches say the Carranza forces are moving toward San Luis Potosi, indicating a big battle is imminent on the railroad between that place and Tampico.

The Gutierrez government is anxious to capture Tampico and end the complications which have arisen as a result of Gen. Carranza's decree affecting foreign oil companies. The British embassy received word today that one British company had been closed because its owners refused to pay a big levy.

Gen. Villa himself has gone to Aguascalientes, where it is believed he is mobilizing for an attack on Puebla.

George C. Carothers, American consular agent, who recently sent the state department his resignation to accept a business offer, has decided, at the solicitation of Secretary Bryan, to continue his work until other arrangements can be made for representing the government wherever Gen. Villa travels. Carothers now is with Villa on his southward journey.

Gen. Bliss at El Paso telegraphed to the war department today that Gen. Mayorena, the Villa commander, had begun to remove his troops from the vicinity of Naco in accordance with the agreement arranged by Gen. Scott. The disappearance of the Mexican forces from the border points where they threatened the life and safety of Americans on the north side of the line will relieve the department from the necessity of maintaining the large force of soldiers sent when the situation became critical.

TIRE THAT WON'T COLLAPSE.

Gaseous Solid Called Rubber Foam Produced in France.

The Scientific American. A good pneumatic tire should be both flexible and elastic. India rubber is flexible enough, but it is not sufficiently elastic.

The solution of the problem appears to be furnished by a new material of remarkable properties, which is produced by an ingenious process in Paris. This product consists essentially of india rubber, containing multitudinous minute bubbles of gas, distributed throughout its mass. The material resembles a rubber sponge in which the cavities are separate and do not communicate with each other. Hence it has received the name "craoutechou mousse," or rubber foam.

The process of manufacture is based on the increase of solubility of gases with increase of pressure. Rubber in the pasty stage of vulcanization is inclosed in a steel tube with nitrogen, at a pressure of 3,000 or 4,000 atmospheres. The compressed gas dissolves in the semi-liquid rubber, which, when the tube is opened, expands to four or five times its former volume and solidifies, imprisoning in its mass myriads of little gas bubbles.

The material, in fact, combines the properties of its two ingredients. It is as flexible as rubber and as compressible as a gas, so that it may be employed in the form of a solid ring, in the place of an air tube of a motor car or bicycle tire. A tire so constructed is noncollapsible, for a puncture affects only a few of the innumerable gas bubbles.

THE CITY OF STRASBURG.

Something About Capital of Alsace-Lorraine, Where Fighting is Going On.

Washington, Jan. 12.—The National Geographic Society today gave out the following description of Strasburg, the capital of Alsace-Lorraine:

"Strasburg is a fortress of utmost importance. With Metz, it guards the western frontier of the German empire, and the Germans have considered no cost too great in their efforts to make it impregnable. Still, the visitor would never suspect Strasburg of being strategic ground, for it is one of the Fatherland's beautiful cities and has all the kindness and ease of manner usual to South German places. Moreover, beyond continuous streams of military upon the streets, there is little other evidence of a great fortress, either within the city or upon its outskirts.

"Strasburg is the capital of Alsace-Lorraine. Unlike its sister fortress, Metz, it is a peace city of importance, having maintained the prosperity won in its days as a free imperial city through all the vicissitudes of war, sovereignty, and natural upheavals. Strasburg has suffered from fire, siege and earthquake; and, like our own San Francisco, it has replaced whatever was lost with structures, parks and avenues, more costly and more beautiful. It has, however, retained many of its medieval characteristics—narrow, tortuous, cobble-stoned streets; and houses, rich with the exterior wood-carving of the middle ages, whose mansard roofs are so steep as to make one dizzy to look up at them.

"The cathedral is the architectural pride of the city. It differs from other German Gothic masterpieces in possessing a greater width in proportion to its height. It stands in nearly the center of the city, on the site of a church originally founded in 504, and it is one of the most harmonious of all the great Gothic masterpieces, which, scattered over Europe, go a long way toward compelling us to modify our opinions concerning the texture of the darkness of the Dark Ages. The present cathedral was begun in 1176 and was completed in 1489. The exquisite facade, with its hewn embroideries and superb rose window, over 40 feet in diameter, is lyric thought in stone and glass. The structure is famous for its beauty wherever there are art lovers.

"There is a rich industrial and commercial life in the Alsatian city, of sufficient importance to support in comfort its 180,000 inhabitants. Tanning, brewing, printing, the manufacture of musical instruments, paper, soap, furniture, gloves, steel goods and tobacco working are the chief industries. Strasburg also has a large business in the agricultural products of Alsace. It has won international renown for its pates de foie gras, for the preparation of which the poorer classes in and around the city fatten geese in great numbers.

"Strasburg lies two miles west of the Rhine on a fruitful plain at the junction of the Ill and the Breusch. It is 30 miles east of the French frontier and 270 miles southwest from Berlin. It is about 90 miles north of Basel, Switzerland, and that part of the French frontier which is opposite to Mulhausen, a present objective of French invading Alsace. The city is guarded by a strong ring of detached forts, sweeping in a fan-like radius between four and seven miles from the city. In peace times, the fortress-city has a garrison of more than 16,000 men, composing all arms of the service. It houses hundreds of university students each year, as its university is favorably known throughout the Empire. Strasburg is an exceptionally advantageous place for the residence of unmarried maids for this city has a disproportionate surplus of unattached young men, of all kinds and conditions, from which to choose."

TO TAKE DAY OFF.

House Accepts Winthrop Invitation Senate Rejected.

Columbia, Jan. 14.—The house at its afternoon session accepted an invitation to visit Winthrop college on January 20 on a special train "chartered without cost to the State." Last Tuesday the senate declined the invitation to go to Winthrop. There was apparently little opposition among the members of the house to taking "a day off" to see the State's great institution for the education of women. The trip will be made the day after Gov. Manning is inaugurated.

It took the senate over an hour Tuesday to say "no" to Winthrop's invitation. The house said "yes" after about five minutes' debate.

NIGHT RIDER OUTRAGE.

Tennessee Farmer Killed and House Wrecked by Bomb.

Friendship, Tenn., Jan. 14.—W. H. Sudbury was killed and a negro servant injured when the Sudbury home was wrecked by a bomb early today. It is believed to be the work of night riders.

HEAR DEAD MAN'S VOICE.

Phonograph Records of Prayers Recorded Over His Coffin.

The funeral services over the body of Leonard G. Spencer, Len Spencer, the phonograph monologue man, who dropped dead Tuesday, were held last Thursday night in New York, and they consisted of two phonograph records he dictated two years ago and saved.

As the sonorous voice recited first the Lord's Prayer and afterward the Twenty-third Psalm, says The New York Sun, the widow and her three daughters and more than fifty friends and professional associates of the man were profoundly affected. Women sobbed and men stared with trembling lips. All said it was as if the man himself had returned and was speaking.

For years Spencer's monologues, German, farmer and other dialects have been known wherever the phonograph records of the Edison and Columbia machine are known. His voice was a powerful barytone with quality best fitted for the records. He often told his family that when he died he did not want any of the usual services over his body, but that he would arrange for that. Two years ago he made, with the utmost

care, the two records. These he took to his home at 150 East Forty-eighth street with the necessary instructions.

He died suddenly Tuesday afternoon and the body was taken by Frank A. Campbell to the Funeral church at 241 West Twenty-third street. Friends were notified, but were not informed what was to be done. Previous to the public service last night the Dirigo Lodge of Masons, of which he was a member, held services and many of them remained afterwards as the family and friends appeared.

There was no preliminary except that a large phonograph was brought in and placed at the head of the coffin, behind some palms. Then, as quiet settled, suddenly in Spencer's own, well known, powerful voice came "Our Father"—and the mourners gasped. Evenly and steadily the voice recited the prayer and stopped. A moment later, as some one made the necessary change, there came in the same voice "The Lord is my Shepherd," and with measured reverent emphasis that great profession of faith was intoned amid sobs.

Chicago Produce Market.

Chicago, Jan. 14.—May wheat, 1.42 3-8; corn 74 7-8; oats 55 1-2; pork 18.50; lard 10.50; ribs, 10.12.

Lumber, Lime, Cement, BUILDING MATERIAL GENERALLY AND FEED OF ALL KINDS.

Booth-Shuler Lumber & Supply Co.

Successors to Booth-Harby Live Stock Co. and Central Lumber Co. Geo. Epperson's Old Stand Opp. Court House

DECEMBER 7, 1914

The National Bank of South Carolina

RESOURCES \$800,000.00

4% compounded quarterly in our Savings Dept. 5% on Time Certificates of Deposit. Strong, conservative, progressive. We appreciate our old friends, and are continually seeking new ones. We want your account.

C. G. Rowland, Pres. G. L. Warren, Cashier

THIS BANK

Is a Member of the Federal Reserve Banking System of the United States.

THE soundness and ability of the bank and the CHARACTER OF THE MEN behind that bank are investigated before the United States Government will allow a bank to become a member of the Federal Reserve System. Once a member of the Federal Reserve System a bank is one of the VAST ARMY of responsible banks which STAND TOGETHER for each other's protection; and the U. S. Government at Washington, D. C., through its representatives on each Federal Reserve Bank Board supervises and assists all member banks. Your money is absolutely safe in our bank and YOU CAN GET IT WHEN YOU WANT IT.

The First National Bank

OF SUMTER.

Capital, Surplus and Profits Nearly \$230,000.00

Gasparilla Carnival } TAMPA, Florida.

Mardi-Gras } New Orleans, Mobile and Pensacola.

Excursion Tickets will be sold for the above occasions from Sumter on February 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, at fares named below, by the

Atlantic Coast Line

The Standard Railroad of the South

TAMPA, FLORIDA \$17.30
NEW ORLEANS, LA. \$23.15
MOBILE, ALA. \$18.95
PENSACOLA, FLA. \$18.30

Tickets will be limited, at time of purchase to February 26th, but an extension of final return limit to March 15th may be obtained by depositing tickets prior to expiration and upon payment of \$1.00. For Schedules, reservations, etc., inquire of Atlantic Coast Line Ticket Agents, or address

W. J. CRAIG, Pass. Traff. Mgr. T. C. WHITE, Gen. Pass. Agt. WILMINGTON, N. C.