

DECLINES THE JUDGESHIP.

WARREN ELECTED, THEN RESIGNS.

Young Attorney Quits Judgeship After Unusual Honor is Conferred by Legislature.

Columbia, Feb. 19.—George Warren, member of the house from Hampton county, was yesterday elected judge of the recently created Fourteenth circuit. He was nominated and elected over his own earnest protest, both indorsing and voting for James E. Fourtroy.

His good faith and sincerity in objecting to his election was evident to the general assembly and he has many witnesses of his earnest attempts to withdraw his name.

Last night Mr. Warren resigned from the position to which he was elected at noon yesterday.

WITH THE LEGISLATURE.

Columbia, Feb. 15.—The proceedings of the house were enlivened yesterday by the introduction of a resolution by E. D. White of Clarendon, who wanted committee on agriculture to investigate "lobbying" and those engaged in it, particularly those working against the bills affecting the farmer. The resolution also wants the activities of newspaper men on the floor of the house probed, to ascertain if any of the "warblers" are paid "lobbyists" or are directors in corporations that would be affected by the passage of any of the measures before the lower body. The resolution gives the committee the power to call and examine witnesses, and provides for a report of the findings of the body at the next session of the general assembly.

The house on an "aye" and "nay" vote refused passage to the resolution. On Saturday, February 18, as the day for adjournment drew near, Mr. Moore thought action on the resolution had better be adjourned, and he was seconded by Mr. Odom who was of the opinion that certain "interests" desired an early adjournment. Mr. Moore averred that the house would never complete the work on the resolution, and the best thing to do was to get in every minute until next Saturday after the accomplishment of as much work as possible.

The following resolution, in regard to the death of Mr. Clement, a member of the Charleston delegation, was unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, the house has learned with profound sorrow of the death of Mr. Clement and colleague, Mendie J. Clement, representative from Charleston county, therefore,

"Be it Resolved, by the house of representatives, That at 3:30 p. m., on Wednesday, February 18, 1916, there shall be held by this house a memorial service to pay tribute to his life and character as a citizen and public servant.

"Be it further resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our deceased colleague by the clerk of the house."

In an effort to press consideration of the bill to drive the Southeastern Association out of the State, on motion of Mr. Odom the measure was withdrawn from the committee on banking and insurance and, after some discussion, was referred to the committee on agriculture. Mr. Odom thought that a sufficiency of hearings has been granted on the bill. The measure already has passed the senate.

HOUSE HASTENS LEGISLATURE.

Columbia, Feb. 15.—The house this morning refused to adopt an amendment by Mr. McMahan to the Washerman act bill providing for the "sterilization" by the State Board of Health of all persons suffering from "syphilis." The lower body showed a disposition to clear the way for adjournment when 119 unfavorably reported bills were killed last night.

The county salary magistrates, county officer salary, and the county supply bills were given third reading this morning, and ordered sent to the senate.

TWO BRITISH CRUISERS SUNK.

Berlin, Feb. 15.—The admiralty announced today that in a naval fight on Doggers Banks German boats torpedoed and sunk another English cruiser in addition to the Arabis.

Note. The British admiralty yesterday announced the loss of the light cruiser Arethusa in the North Sea, but claimed she struck a mine.

TILLMAN CALLS PENROSE.

Asks Pennsylvania Senator to Explain Threat of Armor Plate Trust.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Senator Tillman on the floor of the senate today called upon Senator Penrose to explain his recent message from armor plate manufacturers that they would charge the government two hundred dollars more per ton for armor plate if congress passes the Tillman government armor plate plant bill.

McLAURIN CALLS SEIBELS' HAND

HOT DISPUTE IN COMMITTEE ROOM BETWEEN COTTON WAREHOUSE COMMISSIONER AND INSURANCE MAN.

Commissioner Denounces Southeastern Underwriters' Association for its Alleged Fight on State Warehouse System, and Why He Has Grudge Against Seibels.

Columbia, Feb. 16.—One of the most dramatic scenes that has occurred in a long time in the South Carolina legislature was the clash between Senator McLaurin and the agents of the Southeastern Tariff Association, at a hearing before the agricultural committee of the house on Monday afternoon. The hearing was on the bill which had already passed the senate to drive the Southeastern Tariff Association out of the State. When this bill reached the house, it took its regular course and was referred to the banking and insurance committee. Later on motion of Mr. Odom, chairman of the agricultural committee, who is a staunch friend of the State Warehouse system, the bill was recalled from the insurance committee and referred to the agricultural committee, of which Mr. Odom is chairman.

Senator McLaurin denounced in unmeasured terms the fight which had been made upon the system and upon him. He charged that the official organ of the insurance combine, The Insurance Field, had published an article inspired from Columbia and sent to the banks in New York with which the State receipts had been placed, for the purpose of shaking the confidence of the banks in the State receipts and breaking down the State system. He said that the insurance situation in South Carolina was absolutely controlled through Mr. Seibels' office, and that Mr. Harrington, of the Germania, who was present, and who had said that his company was not a member of the association, was really as much a member as anybody else, and that when Mr. Seibels demanded that Mr. Harrington come up and fight with the Southeastern he came, and that he would not insure State cotton except through Mr. Seibels' representatives. That so far as the claim of Mr. Harrington that his company was losing money was concerned, that the official record showed that last year this company declared a dividend of two hundred thousand dollars on a capital of one million dollars, and according to the statement of the insurance Commissioner this was other people's money they made this twenty per cent. on. Mr. Harrington was a pretty good man, said Senator McLaurin, and he would like to do business with him, and some of the insurance he had in his office was in the Germania, represented by Mr. Harrington, and Mr. Harrington knew it. That he was trying to help Mr. Harrington and those similarly situated, and that if this association was dissolved he would take Mr. Seibels' foot off their necks.

Mr. Seibels interrupted Senator McLaurin and said that he respected his ability and believed in his sincerity, but that Senator McLaurin was wrong in the animosity which he expressed towards the Southeastern; that neither he nor the Southeastern had ever done anything to embarrass or prevent the development of the State Warehouse System. Senator McLaurin and Mr. Seibels were standing close together. Senator McLaurin turned upon him like a flash and said, "I will tell you what you have done, and why it is that I am opposed to your organization. When this warehouse system was trembling in the balance, and had few friends, and I was fighting for its life, I came home from Batesburg one Saturday night—a night so bad that I had to leave my car in Batesburg and come on the train—and after dark, while I was eating supper, a notice was sent around to my apartments from Mr. Seibels' agency that all my insurance in Sumter county was cancelled. How could I place insurance after dark?—and I had to carry that cotton over until Monday without any insurance. I suppose Mr. Seibels thought that I would call him up and want to make some kind of terms with him, but I will never, as a State official, prostitute the dignity of the State of South Carolina by begging terms from any such corporation as that. Nor can I as a man be intimidated by any such methods as that. I took the list and checked it over and made up my mind that if there should be a fire before I could make other insurance arrangements I would pay the loss myself rather than beg terms of Mr. Seibels' agency. If Mr. Seibels wanted to cancel the insurance it would have been all right, but why didn't he wait until Monday morning, when I could have had a chance to have placed this insurance."

Mr. Seibels hotly interrupted Mr. McLaurin, saying: "I deny that I had any insurance in Sumter county."

"I say that you did," said Senator

McLaurin.

"I did not," reiterated Mr. Seibels. "I will get a binder now from my office, which I have preserved, showing, in your own handwriting, that you did," said Senator McLaurin.

"I challenge you to do it," said Mr. Seibels.

Senator McLaurin had Mr. White to phone his office, and in a few minutes Col. Aull, Senator McLaurin's secretary, came in with a bundle of papers. Mr. McLaurin took out a paper.

"Isn't that your signature?" he asked Mr. Seibels.

"Yes; but that is in Mayesville," was the reply.

"Well, Mayesville is in Sumter county," said Senator McLaurin, "unless the Southeastern moved it last night."

"But I meant out in the country," said Mr. Seibels.

"Well, here is one out in the country," said Senator McLaurin; "here is one signed by your agency on cotton at Tindal, S. C., which is out in the country, and in Sumter county."

WITH THE LEGISLATURE.

SENATE PREPARES WAY FOR ADJOURNMENT AT EARLY DATE.

Bill to Drive Southeastern Underwriters Out of State Discussed—House Members Object to Certain Features of Liquor Bill.

Columbia, Feb. 16.—The senate today prepared the way for adjournment by killing all second reading senate bills except uncontested local measures. Eighty bills were disposed of in this manner. The bill placing the election of the State game warden in the hands of the legislature was ordered enrolled as an act.

Considerable time was spent in the house this morning debating the bill to drive the Southeastern Tariff Association out of the State without a vote being registered on the measure.

IN THE LEGISLATURE.

Torrens Land Registration Bill Passed by House—Railroads Must Put on Headlights—Whiskey "Runner" Must Suffer Consequences Same as Seller.

Columbia, Feb. 16.—The house yesterday passed to third reading the bill, offered by Mr. Crum, providing for free tests of the blood under the Wasserman method by the State board of health. After some fight by its advocates, an amendment was added to the bill requiring all those that are able to do so pay for the tests.

The house sustained the motion of Mr. McMahan and killed the bill allowing the railroads more time in which they were to put headlights, meeting with the requirements of the statutes, on their engines operating within the confines of the State.

The special committee printing bills were ordered enrolled as an act.

The local measure of Senator Beattie, providing for a cotton commissioner for Kershaw county who will be required, when requested, to grade and weigh cotton in order to settle the differences between producer and buyer, was passed and ordered sent to the house. The official provided by this bill is to be elected by the people of Kershaw county.

The bill by Senator Verner authorizing motion pictures in the schools was passed and ordered sent to the house.

The measure providing that a certain part of the insurance on school buildings should be carried through the sinking fund commission, was ordered enrolled for ratification.

The senate also sent to the house the resolution requiring the comptroller general to check the old dispensaries.

The Torrens system of land registration bill was passed and was sent to the house for concurrence in the senate amendments.

The Carlisle and Sherard bill making the go-between the buyer and seller of whiskey equally guilty with the seller passed the senate and was sent to the house.

McLaurin.

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Mr. Seibels looked at it a moment, and said nothing.

"I will show you some more," said Mr. McLaurin, and pulled out three binders signed by Mr. James A. Cathcart, president of the South Carolina Underwriters' Association.

"I have nothing to do with him," said Mr. Seibels.

"Well, he is a part of the Southeastern; you all work together," said Senator McLaurin, "and here are the papers to show for themselves."

With intense feeling, Senator McLaurin pointed out that the oil mill combinations and the cotton mill combinations and large property owners went out of the State and got the same cheap insurance that he got for the State system, and no kick was raised, but the moment that he went out and got cheap insurance for farmers, then he was held up as being guilty almost of a crime. "So far as I am concerned," he said, "I intend to

TENANCY SYSTEM INJURIOUS.

JAMES D. EVANS OF FLORENCE EXPLAINS RURAL CREDITS.

In Address to House He Says State Must Aid in Placing Agriculture in Reach of the People.

Columbia, Feb. 16.—The necessity of giving legal sanction and State aid to the efforts to place agriculture in reach of the people of the State through a system of rural credits was stressed yesterday afternoon in an address by James D. Evans of Florence to the members of the house. Mr. Evans has been a close student of agrarian development for several years and has worked out the systems now at work in England, Germany and Denmark. He called attention, too, to the increasing tide of tenant farmers in this State and maintained that methods should be pursued to check this undermining tendency.

"This is one of the most important measures that have come before you at this session," said Mr. Evans, "and is the basis of the requirement of the agricultural people in countries where some such measure has been adopted."

In comparing European countries with South Carolina, the speaker pointed out the great difference in density of population. He said that the art of agriculture which has been dropped out of consideration lately on account of the growth in industry and commerce, is once more coming into prominence. He called attention to the difference in working hours and compensation between farming and industrial work and said that this has much to do with the increasing tendency of young people to go from the country to the town. He argued therefore, that some method should be adopted so as to draw back the young people to the farm.

Mr. Evans said that a system should be furthered whereby the farmer can get credit with the sanction of the law. He said that such legislation is pioneer work, partly missionary in effect.

Mr. Evans produced statistics to show that since 1880 the percentage of farm ownership had decreased from more than 50 per cent. to about 35 per cent. He showed, too, the increase in the number of negro farmers in the last 35 years.

He said that an effort is now being made in England to purchase the large tracts of lands there in order to parcel them out as homesteads. He told of the agrarian reform accomplished in Ireland and Denmark where land has been reclaimed. He said that there the average farm has only six acres as compared with 79 acres in this State.

Mr. Evans said that it would be necessary to aid the farmer to a greater extent than 60 per cent. He said that the only hazardous feature is the danger of "wild cat" schemes, which, however, were frustrated in Ireland and elsewhere. He pointed out the need of having the purchaser from the State take out a contingent life insurance policy as a matter of security.

The speaker pointed out that placing the man on the farm was only half the work, as it is necessary to establish cooperative associations among the farmers. He told of the agencies at work in South Carolina in this field of activity. He called attention to the large benefits arising out of this mutual association, and said that the loans, when made, are made out of the surplus money and that the recipients are not objects of charity. He said that it is a purely business proposition.

Mr. Evans maintained that the requisites for State aid can be compiled with in this State.

"Let us keep politics out of it," he urged, "and we shall start a system that will spread throughout the South."

The house at the conclusion of the address ordered a recess until 8 o'clock last night.

Gets License for 5th Marriage.

A license for his fifth marriage was issued late Thursday evening by Judge of Probate A. C. Dibble to Mr. William Prusner, who resides in the Bowman section of the county. The groom to be named in the certificate issued yesterday is 76 years of age and has been a widower four times. The bride-elect, Miss Williamson, is recorded in the marriage license records as being 28 years of age.—Orangeburg Evening News.

see that the people of South Carolina are informed of the operations of the Columbia ring."

The committee heard the discussion with intense interest, and some of the members expressed amazement at the tactics employed against the State system. The committee reported the bill favorably to the house, the vote being unanimous with the exception of Mr. R. Keith Charles, who is in the insurance business, and is chairman of the insurance committee from which the house had recalled the bill under discussion to refer it to the agricultural committee.

STATE HONORS MERIWETHER.

FIRST MAN TO GIVE LIFE FOR REVOLUTION OF '76.

Was Killed at Hamburg in Leading Uprising Against Negroes and Carpet Baggers—Henderson the Speaker.

North Augusta, Feb. 16.—With impressive ceremonies the monument to the memory of McKie Meriwether, erected by the State of South Carolina, was unveiled in North Augusta this afternoon. The exercises were held in the high school building.

The orator of the day was Col. D. S. Henderson of Alken. The speaker is the sole surviving member of counsel for the men charged with riot and murder following the famous clash of races at Hamburg in which McKie Meriwether lost his life.

Col. Henderson's subject was "The White Man's Revolution in South Carolina." He told of the events leading to the uprising of white people at Hamburg in July 18 and how McKie Meriwether was the first man to lose his life in the uprising which drove the carpetbagger and bummers out of South Carolina and established white rule.

The presiding officer of the day was ex-Gov. John C. Sheppard of Edgefield. The monument was presented to the town of North Augusta in behalf of the general assembly by Senator B. E. Nicholson of Edgefield. It was accepted by Mayor B. C. Wall.

POLICE ARRESTED ROBBER.

Man Giving Name of L. A. Williams Charged with Entering Columbia Store.

Columbia, Feb. 16.—A yegman giving his name as L. A. Williams was surprised shortly after midnight, while attempting to open a safe in a Main street hardware store, by the police and was put under arrest after two shots had been fired at him. Previously in the night he had entered two other stores and rifled the cash drawers, securing only small sums. The police say that Williams early this morning unsuccessfully attempted to organize a conspiracy to "gag" the jailer and break from the prison. One of the prisoners is alleged to have "squealed" on Williams.

MEDALS FOR TARGET SUCCESS.

Members of Sumter Company Given Expert and Sharpshooters' Medals. Acting Capt. R. T. Brown of the Sumter Light Infantry, Company L, N. G. S. C., has received from Adjutant and Inspector General Moore the following letter which is self-explanatory:

February 12, 1916.
From: The Adjutant General.
To: C. O., Co. L, 2nd Infantry.
Subject: Small arms practice qualifications.

1. The Inspector of Small Arms Practice reports that the following members of your company qualified on the qualification course:

Experts—Sergt. J. A. Owens.
Sharpshooters—Private J. V. Morris, Sergt. A. Richardson, 1st Lieut. Brown.

Marksmen—Capt. P. M. Brown, Corp. W. C. Carr.

2. Make requisition for badges and pins for those men who have not already received them during previous years.

The requisition has been made and those members who have not received them before are now the owners of the insignia.

TO PREVENT SHORTAGE.

State Military Law May be Amended.

Columbia, Feb. 17.—In order that there may never be another property shortage the adjutant general has had an amendment to the military laws introduced into the legislature, providing that at the annual inspection of the companies of the National Guard and naval militia the property shortage if any exist be settled then and there. The amendment reads as follows:

"It shall be the duty of the adjutant general to prepare a list of the government property, federal and State, that may be found short in each organization at its annual inspection. The cost of such property found short in each organization shall be deducted from the annual allotment made by the military board to that particular organization, and the amounts so deducted shall be expended by the adjutant general in the purchase of new property of like kind and quantity. In the event the amount of the annual allotment be not sufficient to cover the shortage, it shall be the duty of the adjutant general to enter suit on the bond of the responsible officer. The adjutant general shall incorporate in his annual report a statement of the property shortage in each organization, and the amount paid for such property shortage, and the disposition made of the funds so collected."

NEW BLOW AT ARMOR TRUST.

TILLMAN PROPOSES LAW FOR CONDEMNATION.

Suggests That Government be Given Right of Requisition in Time of Danger of Armor Plants.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Senator Tillman, chairman of the senate naval committee, introduced today a bill which would authorize the government in time of war or threatened war to seize and operate for such a period as might be necessary all privately owned plants manufacturing munitions and armor plate.

Owners of such plants would be given recourse to the court of claims for reimbursement of losses incurred, and the government would be required to settle annually until possession of the factories was restored and all claims allowed by the court.

The measure was introduced after Senator Tillman had addressed the senate urging prompt passage of his bill to provide \$1,000,000 for a government armor plate factory. This bill was favorably reported by the naval committee in the face of notice from armor manufacturers that its passage would be followed by an increase of \$200 a ton on plate furnished the government for warships.

"The threat of those who are making armor, which was voiced by the senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. Penrose, to the committee in executive session, shows the temper of these men at this time," declared Senator Tillman in his address, "and makes it vital for congress to teach them a lesson. The best answer to the threat is the passage of the bill for a government armor factory."

Senator Tillman declared that he "had been shocked by the insolence" of threats of the armor plate manufacturers and asserted that the longer congress delayed in building a government plant, "the more money the government will lose and the longer we will be in getting the new ships already authorized and those to be authorized by this congress."

"I have no doubt," continued the senator, "that the naval programme when agreed on by the two houses will approximate the number of ships asked for by President Wilson and the sooner the government is free from any possible danger of a holdup such as has been threatened, the better for it and the country, too."

The senator concluded by saying that in spite of the technical and scientific nature of the manufacture of armor plate there was no doubt a government plant could be built and put into operation within two years.

DIES FROM WOUNDS.

William M. Bramlett of Greenville County Victim of Despondency Over Health.

Greenville, Feb. 15.—William M. Bramlett, a prominent citizen and farmer of Greenville county, died this afternoon as a result of a gunshot wound which he is said to have inflicted upon himself. Mr. Bramlett, who lived on the Fork Shoals road, had been in very bad health for some time and was despondent. He was prominently connected in this county. The funeral will be held Wednesday.

ASYLUM FOR FEEBLEMINDED.

Regents of Hospital for Insane Are Directed to Report Upon Plans.

Columbia, Feb. 15.—The senate last night passed the bill by Senators Sherard and Christensen looking to the creation of a school for the training of the feeble-minded. An amendment by Senator Laney of Chesterfield placed the supervision of the school in the hands of the board of regents of the State Hospital for the Insane, rather than under a board of trustees of five, as provided originally. The senate refused to table this amendment by a vote of 26 nays to 7 yeas. The effect of the amendment will be to annex the school to the State Hospital for the Insane rather than leave it a separate and distinct institution.

The establishment of the school is in reality contingent upon reports and recommendations which are to be made to the general assembly one year hence. During the interim regents, in cooperation with the board of charities and corrections, are to make exhaustive investigations as to the number and nature of the buildings necessary for such an enterprise, make recommendations as to the funds needed to purchase site, erect buildings and provide equipment and maintenance. The bill now goes to the house.

Endorses McLaurin for Secretary of Agriculture.

A resolution has been introduced in the house of representatives by Messrs Rivers and Nunn indorsing Warehouse Commissioner McLaurin for secretary of agriculture in case Secretary Houston is changed to the portfolio of war by President Wilson.