

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING.**

**NUMBER OF MATTERS OF MINOR IMPORTANCE ACTED UPON.**  
Council Extends Time for Pool Rooms to Get out of Business—Refuses to Rebate Water Claims—Reports Received from Various Departments. The regular meeting of City Council was held last night with Councilman Rowland and Mayor Jennings present. A number of matters of minor importance were transacted during the meeting.  
Council placed on record previous action by its members reducing the license on pool tables to \$100 per annum for the first three months in 1917, in order to give the owners time in which to dispose of the tables, after which it would revert back to \$300 per table per annum.  
A license was given J. K. Esell to operate an indoor baseball game, the license being set at \$15 a year.  
The city clerk was directed to write the A. C. L. authorities asking that they pay back to the city the money paid the contractors for paving the approach to the station, which was advanced the contractors by the city.  
Reports were received from the chief of police, librarian, for the city nurse, and from the superintendent of the fire department and ordered filed.  
The ordinance regulating the issue of \$75,000 additional street pavement bonds passed second reading, as did another ordinance fixing a tax levy at three-fourths mill to create a sinking fund and retire the bonds at the end of twenty years.  
Council confirmed previous action of its members in naming Dr. S. H. Edmunds and Mr. W. B. Uphur as the city's representatives on the Altamont Moses Memorial Fund Association.  
Petitions were received to extend the paving on Oakland Avenue from Salem Avenue to Purdy street, and to pave the sidewalks on Corbett street and to change the name of the street to Park Avenue. Council, while anxious to have this work done, did not think that there would be sufficient funds left from the paving bonds, after the work already mapped out had been done, to do the additional work requested. No action was taken.  
Mr. J. E. Crosswell presented a letter from Mr. J. W. McKiever in reference to repairs which could be made on a building at the corner of South Main and Bartlett streets owned by Mr. Crosswell, which had been condemned by the city fire inspector. Council directed that the repairs stated in Mr. McKiever's letter be made, with the understanding that this would insure the safety of the building.  
The library report for January showed twenty-eight new members, with a total of 783 members; 546 books let out in January, making a total of 9332.  
The report of Chief of Police Sumter for January showed 30 arrests, 11 dismissed, one not guilty, 4 transferred to magistrate's court, days \$70 fine, \$379.65, making a total of \$552.65.  
Bids to supply the city with medicine for charity cases were received from Zeep's Pharmacy, Mitchell's Drug Store, Sibert's Drug Store and DeLorme's Pharmacy. The contract for the rest of 1917 was let to DeLorme's Pharmacy at 41 per cent. of the list price.  
The clerk reported that he had received several inquiries as to the payment of dues for sanitary service, when the premises visited were vacant. It was decided by Council that in case of vacancy for a whole quarter the dues would not be required, but otherwise the regular amounts would have to be paid.  
The superintendent of fire department's report showed fifty-two alarms of fire, four of them false. He stated that frequent false alarms came from boxes 26 and 25, and therefore new glasses had to be put in at these boxes often. The fire district had been inspected each quarter and an inspection of the entire city was being made at present. Where defects were found the owners of the premises were required to remedy them. There had been 13 building permits since October 16, 1916, 83 of these being for repairs and the other twenty for new buildings. Capt. Finn in his report stated that there had been some trouble in getting this ordinance into operation, but that it was working better now.  
Several claims of water overcharges by the city were taken up and considered, and all of them disallowed by Council. It was claimed in one instance that there must have been a mis-reading of the meter, which was responsible for the excessive amount of water shown as consumed and in two other cases it was stated that the excess could have been remedied had the meter been read quarterly, as was the custom. Council did not consider it the city's place to show customers the cause of excessive use of water, nor did it consider that it was incumbent upon the city to read the meter every quarter, this being considered only a custom and not a necessity.  
The matter of children skating on certain streets of the city was brought up by the mayor, but no action was taken.  
The city clerk reported that he had received a reply from Columbia as to the charging of the water rent to landlords instead of to tenants. Action on the matter was postponed.  
Chief Sumter reported that he had received a number of requests and objections as to the age limit fixed for children in running cars on the street. He stated that the age limit might be fixed at from 13 to 15 under certain conditions. Council decided to allow this age limit, where children under 15 stood the required examination and satisfied the chief of police that they were qualified to run cars on the streets without unduly endangering the lives of others.  
The city manager suggested that an ordinance be passed prohibiting the spilling of gasoline or kerosene on the asphaltic and bituminous pavements, as it caused rapid deterioration. The mayor stated that he would prepare an ordinance carrying out this suggestion.  
City Manager Shuler reported that

**MAKES STRONG ADDRESS.**

**LARGE AUDIENCE HEARS GOV. HANLEY TELL OF EVILS OF LIQUOR TRAFFIC.**  
National Prohibition, He Says, is the Ultimate Aim of Flying Squadron—Mayor Jennings Says Legislators Lack Backbone to Make State Bone-Dry—Music is Delightful Feature.  
Former Gov. Frank E. Hanley of Indiana Tuesday night made a strong address to a large audience in the Academy of Music. Gov. Hanley was scheduled to speak on prohibition and he told in forceful language of the evils of the liquor traffic and of the fight which was being put up by the Anti-Saloon League and the Flying Squadron for national constitutional prohibition. Incidentally it might be said that it was a representative prohibition audience in attendance and many of the points brought out by the speakers were liberally applauded.  
The meeting was presided over by Dr. J. H. Wilson of St. James' Lutheran church. At its close a motion was made that it was the sense of the meeting that the South Carolina representatives in congress be requested to do all in their power to make the Reed bone-dry amendment to the postal bill effective at once, and all in favor of the motion were requested to stand. When those opposed were called for there was one vote against the motion.  
The meeting was opened with a song by a male chorus, after which Dr. W. E. Thayer of the First Baptist church made a short prayer. A vocal solo by Miss Marie Rotholz, "How Beautiful Upon the Mountains," was delightfully rendered a very pleasing feature of the musical part of the program. At the close of Gov. Hanley's address envelopes were passed around and a collection taken to aid in carrying on the work of the "Flying Squadron." A Violin solo was rendered by Master William Truesdale.  
Mayor Jennings was presented by Dr. Wilson to introduce the speaker of the evening, as "Sumter's bone-dry mayor," a statement which was greeted with applause. Mayor Jennings in his remarks stated that one of the things which was much needed at this time was men with more backbone to act according to their convictions, and not as a matter of policy or politics. He said that if the members of the legislature had had more backbone, a bone-dry measure would have been passed at the recent session of the legislature, and not a quart-a-month act. The act, he said, would have gone into effect immediately upon its being signed by the governor, too, instead of a delay of 60 days having been provided. He referred to the fight which was being made on the Reed bone-dry amendment to the postal law, saying that the liquor men were constantly trying to defeat or defer prohibition legislation.  
Gov. Hanley's remarks indicated the fight which had been waging for some time and was still being waged relentlessly against the liquor traffic. He said that on his visit to South Carolina a year and a half ago, he had been asked by someone if he came from a dry State, and when he said that he did not, the man told him to go back to his own State and make it dry before he went somewhere else to try to make the State dry. He said he believed the man was pretty near right and now he bore a greeting to dry South Carolina from dry Indiana, for since he was here last Indiana had voted out the liquor evil.  
National constitutional prohibition was the end sought by the flying squadron, the speaker stated. Already 26 States had voted dry and 36 had to be prohibition, before the last great move could be accomplished. In the Eastern States, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, he said the last strong fight would be made. During his remarks Gov. Hanley showed the evil in death and disease which the liquor traffic was causing. The makers of the constitution, he stated, had an opportunity to refuse to recognize slavery when they formed the constitution of the United States, but they had failed at the crucial moment. They had sowed the wind and reaped the whirlwind in the four years of civil war. They had another opportunity to make constitutional prohibition, but they had failed, and yearly and daily the American people were reaping the whirlwind from this wind which was sowed. Of the 500,000 deaths every year in the United States, 60 per cent. were directly the result of the liquor traffic; he showed that a great majority of the insane, nearly all of the crime and thousands of deformed and mentally deficient children were results of the liquor evil. He said that up to now the national government had always been, as it were, a partner in the liquor traffic, because it had recognized it on a business basis. He referred to the part he had taken in the fight in the past eight years, saying that he had conceived it to be his duty to give up other business and probable advancement to aid in the work of eradicating the traffic. He said that he had heard it stated on the floor of the house of representatives and by an ex-president, that efforts to eradicate the whiskey evil by national constitutional prohibition were futile and idle, and he considered this strictly a challenge of the rights of American citizens.  
In thanking Gov. Hanley for his remarks, Dr. Wilson stated that South Carolina had reduced the liquor traffic in this State to a gallon, and now to a quart-a-month, and by the time that Gov. Hanley came again, it would be entirely eliminated.  
Columbia, Feb. 28.—The Columbia farm loan bank is being organized as rapidly as possible. President F. J. H. von Engelken has returned from his home in Florida. It will probably be several weeks before loans are made by the bank on farm property.  
The opera house roof was in need of repair and he was instructed to secure estimates on the work required and report at the next meeting of council.

**GAME WAREEN REPLIES.**

**SAYS THAT STATEMENTS IN GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE ARE UNTRUE.**  
Richardson Says That His Monthly Reports to Comptroller General Will Show Expenses and Collections of His Office and He is Ready for Audit at Any Time.  
Columbia, Feb. 25.—"An untrue presentation of the facts" is the manner in which Col. Alfred A. Richardson, chief game warden, characterizes the veto message of Governor Manning, "whereby he refused to accept the action of the general assembly," placing election of chief game warden in the hands of the people and retaining Col. Richardson in office until the next general election. A "per-verse" and an "untrue statement" are among the other expressions used by Chief Warden Richardson in replying to the governor's veto message. The statement was issued today. It is as follows:  
"In the veto message of the governor, whereby he refused to accept the action of the general assembly, he charged in his voluminous message affecting a bill placing my office in the hands of the people, that there had been corruption in connection with this office. My personal impulse is to go into a detailed denial of these false charges. But since the senate has by its action in endorsing the spirited defense made in my behalf 'shown a desire to carefully investigate all of the charges made against me and all those associated with me, and has seemed to desire that public opinion be not written into a full investigation has been made, I shall hold my peace."  
"I stand prepared at any time to allow not only any state officer, but any individual who desires the privilege to examine the complete records of my office from the time that I took charge of its affairs until the present time."  
"As above stated, I do not care to go into all of the details in this matter. I feel compelled, however, to let the people of South Carolina know that the part of the governor's message relative to the finances of this department is an untrue presentation of the facts. Which statement can be verified by my books, the state treasurer's books and my itemized monthly reports to the comptroller general."  
"The governor's message in part states 'about \$30,000 was collected by this department during the year of 1916, and about \$6,000 has gone to the public schools.' The \$30,000 mentioned by the governor went to the public schools from the collection of 1915. On the very first page of my report to the governor and the general assembly it will be shown that the schools received \$10,592.50 from the collections of 1916. You will therefore see that the governor's statement concerning the schools is misleading. I wish to further state that I have receipts from the different county treasurers of the state which will show that I have turned over to them the sum of \$10,592.50 from the 1916 collections."  
"The governor's message further states that the limit for the traveling expenses of chief game warden is \$1,000, and that on this item alone I spent \$1,264.56. This statement is correct. I did spend \$264.56 over and above the amount appropriated for my traveling expenses. The business of this department has grown enormously and it has necessitated more traveling for the chief game warden. I wish to state that I spent this \$264.56 upon opinion of the attorney general and that I had a perfect right to do so. I made no secret of so doing, but reported the same in my statements to the comptroller general. Just to show you the necessity of such expenditures I quote the following: 'My December statement to the comptroller general will show that I spent out of the game protection fund \$134.40 and the state treasurer's books will show that in December we collected \$21,599.47. It is not reasonable to presume that I did good business by spending the above mentioned small amount to collect up such a large sum of money."  
"The governor's message says the chief game warden 'has spent on this item alone \$1,204.56, plus mileage books \$120, incidentals \$184, automobile and boat hire \$1,500.41.' This is another perversion of the true facts, and I will show right here that it is."  
"I make monthly statements to the comptroller general itemizing the traveling expenses of chief game warden, and I make another entirely different statement to the comptroller general covering expenditures of the entire department throughout the state. The mileage books and the automobile and boat hire are shown on the last mentioned statement. The one covers expenses of the entire department and any one with common sense who will look at these statements could not possibly think that the above items were spent by the chief game warden for his own traveling expenses. The other amount of \$184, mentioned by the governor as 'incidentals,' is an untrue statement altogether. I have never spent one cent since I have been in office and marked it 'incidentals.' Every dollar that has been spent by me has been disbursed by check and the stub shows what for. Furthermore, I have in my possession with endorsement of the person to whom it was issued each check."  
"The whole message is misleading from start to finish, but I do not care to go any further into it now, except to say this that if a 'bold lobby' was pulled off Governor Manning and his friends worked just as hard on one side as I and my friends did on the other and because they did not have any luck is not my fault."  
"Since writing the above, Mr. L. A. Searson a certified public accountant, has gone through my expenditures and has found that the average amount paid the men working under me will figure out to be \$537.71 per month to the man."  
The veto message of the governor was carried over by the senate for consideration at the next session.  
Racine, Wis., Feb. 27.—It is said here that Cedric B. Ivatts, who lost his life on the Laconia, although born in England, was an American citizen.

**THE QUART-A-MONTH LAW.**

**BELIEVED THAT IT WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY NATIONAL "BONE DRY" ACT.**  
Not Exactly What Governor Wanted, But He Got It as the Nearest He Could Get to His Ideas—Given Sum for Enforcing Law.  
(By Joe Sparks.)  
Columbia, Feb. 28.—The new "quart a month" law is exciting a good deal of interest in South Carolina and letters which are coming into Gov. Manning show that some who at first were opposed to the law think that, in the light of the "bone dry" act tacked on to the postoffice appropriation bill by congress, it would have been worse from one standpoint, if the legislature had not enacted the present law. Had the old gallon-a-month stood when the federal law went into effect this State would be absolutely "bone dry" as it is the quart a month law will stand, in the view of authorities, because it is for medicinal purposes thus coming in the federal law.  
There is not a very good understanding of just what the federal law allows in the way of importations of whiskey and wine for medicinal, sacramental, scientific purposes, but it is believed here that the South Carolina statute will not be disturbed by the federal act. The quart a month of whiskey allowed is for medicinal purposes, strictly, and only males over 21 years of age and women who are heads of families are permitted to get the quart after they go before the judge of probate and make affidavit that they need it for medicinal purposes, and obtain a permit on payment of a fee of ten cents.  
It is known that the quart a month did not meet the ideas of the governor for in his message to the general assembly he favored reduction of the amount of whiskey, and wanted some beer and light wines. The medicinal attribution was not his idea, but was born in the committee of free conference between the senate and house which were trying to reconcile the bone dry sentiment of the house and the quart a month prescription bill of the senate.  
The main features of the new act in the opinion of the governor over the gallon a month are in the strengthening of the measures for its enforcement. The limiting to the heads of families will do away with the negro women nuisance of getting whiskey, for so great had become this complaint that the negro ministers of Columbia had petitioned the city council to take some steps to remedy the situation.  
It is felt that under the new law it will be almost impossible for blind tigers to get much, if any, whiskey. Under the old gallon a month statute the tigers could "rent" names and get a good stock of liquor and one of the complaints in Columbia was that this was done in many instances. Under the new law it is believed that the "renting" of names will be almost, if not quite, eliminated for it will be easier for the officers of the law to check up the records.  
Of course there is a widespread sentiment in South Carolina for absolute, iron clad, bone dry prohibition and undoubtedly, if the present quart a month act does not almost bring this to pass, the legislature at its session in 1918 will very probably enact a "bone dry" act. On the other hand, if there is too great a reaction against such stringent legislation and it does the cause of temperance harm, those who want an allowance of light wines and beer for beverages will be encouraged to seek changes to that end.  
Gov. Manning has been given a fund of \$60,000 with which to enforce the prohibition laws and if the local county authorities are unable or neglect to enforce the laws the governor can send in constables to catch the violators. The new law enforcement fund is not limited to the mere enforcement of the prohibition laws, but is for all laws, a point which is of more than significance.  
**WOULD ARM COTTON TRADERS.**  
**Member of Congress to Introduce Amendment Making Special Provision for South.**  
Washington, Feb. 27.—It was learned here today that a prominent member of congress from the South is to offer an amendment to the bill authorizing the United States government to arm ships of commerce by proposing that this shall specially cover ships carrying cotton for export trade.  
The name of the man who will make this fight is not yet public here but he is well known in the South and it is said that he will endeavor in the interests of the cotton growers to insist that full immunity be either given by the central powers or made so by armed ships in order to protect cotton exports.  
This man believes it high time that something be done to insure right of way for the 1917 cotton crop which must necessarily be tied up at our home ports or sunk if the present submarine warfare is continued.  
If this proposition is put through it will be a boom to cotton producers and Germany will then be in a position where she must either refrain from sinking ships with cotton cargoes or take whatever comes to her ships in the event they attack those from this country.  
**NEED CARS FOR FERTILIZERS.**  
Washington, Feb. 27.—Representatives of Southern fertilizer interests told the car service commission of the American Railway association today that unless the rule requiring return of foreign cars to owner roads is modified during the fertilizer moving period between March 1 and May 1 there will be a fertilizer shortage in the South. They proposed a suspension for 60 days of the penalty imposed by the railroad commission for empty cars not routed back to the owner lines so that Southern roads may use the cars of other roads now on their lines for moving fertilizers.  
The commission promised to confer with officials of Southern roads and to take some action to afford relief.

**ANALYZES RATING LAW.**

**McMaster Explains Main Features of Insurance Act.**  
Columbia, Feb. 25.—Insurance Commissioner F. H. McMaster has issued the following as his analysis of the Rating Act of 1917:  
"In order that the rating act passed at the recent session of the general assembly may be understood its differences from the Laney-Odom act in force heretofore are shown. The full details are not given but the salient points.  
"The Laney-Odom act forbade fire insurance companies from entering into any compact or combination for the purpose of governing or controlling rates charged for fire insurance on property in that State, but permitted the companies to employ a common agent or agents to prepare and furnish maps and other data as to risks, and to supervise and advise of defective structures or suggest improvements to lessen the fire hazard." The attorney general held that this permitted this common agent or agents to furnish advisory rates, but the companies were not permitted to enter into compacts to enforce them.  
"The 1917 act provides that fire insurance companies may individually or in cooperation with other companies maintain or be members of a rating bureau.  
"A rating bureau may consist of one or more insurers, and when consisting of two or more insurers shall admit to membership any fire insurer authorized to do business in this State. . . .  
"Every fire insurance company shall in its annual application for license specify each rating bureau making rates upon property located within this State, of which it is a member and during the year file written notice of any other rating bureau of which it shall become a member."  
"No fire insurance company . . . and no rating bureau . . . shall enter into or act upon any agreement with reference to the making, fixing or collecting of any rate for fire insurance upon property within this State unless such agreement "be in writing and prior to its taking effect a copy thereof be filed with the insurance commissioner . . . .  
"The insurance commissioner may after due notice and hearing, upon complaint or upon his own motion make an order disapproving any such agreement or any part of such agreement . . . . The action of the insurance commissioner in making or refusing to make any such order shall be subject to summary review before a court of competent jurisdiction in this State."  
"Under the Laney-Odom act the insurance commissioner had power "to review any rate charged for fire insurance . . . for the purpose of determining whether the same is discriminatory or unjust. . . His findings or order shall in all cases be subject to summary court review."  
"Under the 1917 act the South Carolina Insurance Commission, consisting of three members appointed by the governor, has power to determine whether a rate is "discriminatory, or excessive or unreasonable." In respect to "excessive or unreasonable rates its determination must be based upon the results of the business of stock fire insurance companies "during the five years next preceding the year in which the investigation is made." "Any action of the said commission shall be subject to summary review before a court of competent jurisdiction without prejudice to other party involved."  
"The Laney-Odom act contained a section which forbade agents giving rebates or premiums or discriminating in methods of payments of premiums or in any other way between insurers of risks. This section is repealed and there is no similar section in the new law, so the agents and insurers are perfectly free to make their own terms one with the other.  
"The 1917 act prohibits a fire insurance company from making any rate "which discriminates unfairly between risks in the application of like charges and credits, or which discriminates unfairly between risks of essentially the same hazards, territorial classifications and having substantially the same degree of protection against fire."  
"The relations between the companies and their agents are regulated by section 15 of the 1917 act, which provides: "No fire insurance company or other insurer and no rating bureau shall require any agent or make any agreement with such agent whereby the said agent shall not write insurance in any company not a member of any rating bureau in this State, nor shall any company or companies enter into an agreement to refuse to write insurance through any agent or agents or broker who represents any companies not members of any rating bureau now or hereafter to be established in the State."  
"Under the 1917 act 'the insurance commissioner may address inquiries to any individual, association or bureau which is or has been engaged in making rates or estimates for rates for fire insurance on property in the State in relation to the organization, maintenance or operation or any other matter connected with its transactions and may require the filing of schedules, rates, forms, rules, regulations and such other information as may be required. . . . The insurance commissioner shall have power to examine any such rating bureau as often as he deems it expedient to do so and shall do so not less than once every three years."  
"The insurance commissioner has no present purpose of requiring the filing of rates and each company is perfectly free to make its own rates as it sees fit or to make them through a bureau under the regulations of the act."

**Guard Your Children Against Bowel Trouble**

Many children at an early age become constipated, and frequently serious consequences result. Not being able to realize his own condition, a child's bowels should be constantly watched, and a gentle laxative given when necessary. Dr. Miles' Laxative Tablets are especially well adapted to women and children. The Sisters of Christian Charity, 531 Charles St., Luzerne, Pa., who attend many cases of sickness say of them:  
"Come time ago we began using Dr. Miles' Laxative Tablets and find that we like them very much. Their action is excellent and we are grateful for having been made acquainted with them. We have had good results in every case and the Sisters are very much pleased."  
The form and flavor of any medicine is very important, no matter who is to take it. The taste and appearance are especially important when children are concerned. All parents know how hard it is to give the average child "medicine," even though the taste is partially disguised. In using Dr. Miles' Laxative Tablets, however, this difficulty is overcome. The shape of the tablets, their appearance and candy-like taste at once appeal to any child, with the result that they are taken without objection.  
The rich chocolate flavor and absence of other taste, make Dr. Miles' Laxative Tablets the ideal remedy for children.  
If the first box fails to benefit, the price is returned. Ask your druggist. A box of 25 doses costs only 25 cents. Never sold in bulk. MILES MEDICAL CO., Elkhart, Ind.

**Buying Feed for Dairy Cows.**

Clemson College, S. C., Feb. 16.—The amount of digestible protein, carbohydrates and fat contained in any commercial feedstuffs is the principal factor in fixing the value of that feedstuff. The figures given on the tag attached to a sack of feedstuff are not a reliable indicator of the real feed nutrients which an animal may obtain from this feed. These tags give the total content of protein, carbohydrates and fat, but do not tell what percentage of each nutrient is digestible. The buyer must get this information elsewhere in order to rightly compare the value of different feeds. As a general rule it is best to buy standard unskimmed feeds and mix them to suit the animal to which they are fed. In order to do this a farmer should have some text such as Henry's "Feeds and Feeding" for reference to the exact amount of nutrients in each feed. In buying mixed feeds he should obtain such as are made up of a mixture of standard feeds and the percentage of each feed used should be given. It is then an easy matter to determine the relative value of the feed.

The effect of a feed on the digestive system of a cow is important. Constipated feeds such as cottonseed meal, hulls, stover and straw should always be combined with one or more laxative feeds such as wheat bran, silage, roots and legume hay.  
The amount of fertilizing constituents contained in a feed should also be considered. This factor determines the value of the manure resulting from the use of the feed. About 75 per cent. of the fertilizing constituents of feeds are returned to the soil in the manure. In other words if cottonseed meal is worth \$30 a ton as a fertilizer, it may be fed to a dairy cow and the manure will contain \$22.50 worth of fertilizing constituents. In addition to this the farmer has the dairy products produced by the feed.

**BUYS NEW EQUIPMENT.**

**Coast Line Places Orders for Twenty Engines.**  
Wilmington, N. C., Feb. 27.—An order has been placed with a locomotive works by the Atlantic Coast Line railroad for more than half a million dollars worth of new equipment, it was announced at the general offices of the company here today. Delivery is to be made in the early fall. The order includes seven Pacifics for passenger service; ten Mikados for hauling heavy freight tonnage and three shifters which will be placed in the larger yards.

**JURY RETURNS NO BILL.**

**Abbeville Men Charged With Lynching Dismissed.**  
Abbeville, Feb. 27.—Court of general sessions convened here Monday with Judge Puerifoy presiding. The grand jury failed to find a true bill against the eight men charged with lynching the negro, Anthony Crawford, last October. Also the 18 men charged with riot on the streets of Abbeville. The men were dismissed.  
C. B. Thomas, charged with murder, was found not guilty. Mr. Thomas shot and killed R. C. Fields, a white tenant on his farm. The shooting occurred about two years ago. Thomas claimed self defense.

**Fire Insurance Companies Return.**  
Columbia, Feb. 28.—Three more fire insurance companies returned to South Carolina today, making a total of 30 to resume operations after the passage of the several measures designed to relieve the unsettled conditions caused by the Laney-Odom act of the 1915 session.