

MENDEL LAFAYETTE SMITH NEWLY ELECTED JUDGE

**Holding His First Term of
Court in Union.**

SKETCH OF HIS LIFE

**Judge Smith Has Made an Ever-
lasting Impression Upon the
Citizenship of Union as a
Jurist, Public Speaker
and a Christian
Gentleman.**

Judge Mendel L. Smith, who is residing over his first term of court, has made a most favorable impression on the citizenship of Union, and it is with pleasure that we reproduce a sketch of his life taken from his home paper, The Camden Chronicle, of January 22.

Mendel Lafayette Smith
"Mendel L. Smith, elected by the general assembly of South Carolina on the 14th day of January, 1915, Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, was born at Smithville, then a part of Sumter, now in Lee County, South Carolina, on the 5th day of July, 1870. His parents were Lafayette M. Smith and Medora (Bradley) Smith. His father was a large and successful merchant and planter, and was a most highly respected, substantial and influential citizen. He died in January 1888. His mother, who is now living, is a woman of fine intellect, splendid energy and marvelous executive ability.

The subject of this sketch was reared in the country until the age of thirteen years. His father then moved the family to Camden for the increased educational advantages afforded his children. He attended the Camden Graded School until the fall of 1884, when he entered Wofford College, at Spartanburg, S. C., and took under Prof. Gambrel, a preparatory course. In the fall of 1885, he entered the South Carolina Military Academy, now known as the Citadel, Charleston, S. C., from which institution he graduated in 1889. He subsequently entered the University of Virginia in 1890 and took the law course at that famous Southern institution of learning. He had the great privilege of hearing the lectures of Prof. Jno. B. Minor, who was one of the most illustrious law teachers this country has produced. He was admitted to the practice of the law in the courts of Virginia on May 29, 1894, and in South Carolina on the 11th day of January, 1895.

Mr. Smith was married in April, 1895, to Miss Anna Dixon, of Camden and they have four children. He has been active in Sunday School and church work, teaching a Bible class at the Camden Baptist Sunday School.

In Demand as a Public Speaker.
As a public speaker, probably, no one has ever been called upon to make more speeches in this state. For fifteen years, he has been in constant demand throughout the state for addresses on memorial, school and college commencing, fraternal, patriotic, banquet, celebratory, political and religious occasions. There are few audiences in this state that he has not addressed.

He has devoted lots of time to fraternal matters. He is a member of Pine Creek Council No. 20, Junior Order United American Mechanics; Camden Lodge No. 119, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was elected Grand Master of this order in May 1914, and is now serving in this capacity. He is a member and Past Chancellor of DeKalb Lodge No. 43, Knights of Pythias, and Past Grand Chancellor of the Domain of South Carolina, and also a representative to the supreme lodge from this state, being the sixth member of the judiciary committee therein, and chairman of the Committee on Rules, probably one of the highest recognitions ever given a South Carolinian in that body. He was asked to preside over that body the third day of his first session. He is also a member of Kershaw Lodge No. 29, A. F. M., being now Worshipful Master of the Lodge. He is a member of Rising Star Chapter No. 4, Royal Arch Masons, Columbia Commandery, Knights Templar, and Omar Shrine.

His Public Career.

His first public position was the chairmanship of the Board of Trustees of the Camden Graded School district, to which position he was appointed by the Board of Education in 1899 and served with the late E. O. McCreight and Charles R. Lewis. His splendid service in this capacity at an early age indicated a peculiar fitness which was soon to develop into a brilliant public service in other phases of public life. He has devoted much time and thought to the consideration of the state's educational interests. Perhaps, in his long career as Speaker of the House of Representatives, with the power of appointing the important committees

of Ways and Means, Education and Public Schools, he has, by a progressive and conservative constitution of these committees, done as much as any one man in the state to stimulate and develop its educational system.

In 1908, he was the author of a resolution which authorized the governor to appoint a commission to revise the common school law of the state and with distinguished educators served on the commission, and while this report was not enacted into law as a whole, its progressive recommendations acted as a great stimulus to educational reforms and activities in our system. In 1907, he was appointed by Speaker Whaley, chairman of the Military Committee of the House, which made him ex-officio, a member of the Board of Visitors of the Citadel, his alma mater. He was also appointed a member of the board of trustees of the South Carolina Medical College in 1904, succeeding the late U. S. Circuit Judge, Chas. H. Simonton, and served on the board until the re-organization of the college as a state institution.

He has served several times as chairman of the county Democratic convention and executive committee, and has continuously served as a delegate to the state Democratic convention since his entrance into public life to the last convention which he declined on account of his announced candidacy for the office of governor. He was president of the state Democratic convention in 1908, and was temporary chairman of what is known as the Jones' convention which was held in 1912. Many delicate and important questions were presented at this convention, growing out of contests which were presented with much feeling, to which he applied his ability as a parliamentarian and experience as a presiding officer with great firmness and satisfaction.

He was elected to the House of Representatives from Kershaw county in 1900 by the largest majority ever given a candidate with opposition in the county and thereafter, with the exception of one term (1907-1909), has served his county in this capacity for a period of twelve years, never having failed of election in the first primary by overwhelming majorities. No representative has ever more highly esteemed by his constituency nor more implicitly trusted, nor has he ever failed to measure up to any responsibility imposed.

After a service of two years on the floor of the House, he was elected speaker of that body by a large majority. He has served the state in that capacity for eight years, from 1903 to 1915.

It is here that his peculiar fitness and talents have been displayed most brilliantly in his public life. Possessed of striking physique, commanding presence and voice, an exquisite patience and firmness, a spirit of absolute fairness and impartiality, a polished courtesy and a wonderful mastery of the principles of parliamentary law and usage, it is conceded by all that he has not a superior in this country as a parliamentarian and presiding officer.

He is frequently called upon to determine throughout the state important questions relating to the proceedings of boards of directors of business concerns, municipal councils and other deliberative assemblies of various kinds, whether presiding over a body swayed with a bitter factional strife, or moved by a peaceful harmony, he always won, jointly, by his firmness, fairness and impartiality, the confidence and esteem of all, which have been from time to time expressed by the most cordial resolutions and the happy presentation of testimonials and tokens of regard.

In 1907 he was urged to make the race for governor, but could not on account of protracted illness. He, however, did make the race in 1914, but was unsuccessful. But for the peculiar turn the campaign took during its last few days, he would today be governor of South Carolina. He, with six others in the race, opposed the Bleese administration, while four candidates favored it. A concentration of the anti-administration forces was deemed wise, and this resulted in his failure to get in the second primary. He made a most vigorous fight against lawlessness and the enforcement of the law. In an editorial of Aug. 28, 1914, the 'State' newspaper voiced the sentiment of thousands in this state when it declared:

"Rarely has any man made a more attractive campaign for Governor of South Carolina than that of Mendel L. Smith, of Kershaw. His platform was broad and progressive and he met the issues fairly and frankly, discussing them with excellent ability."

"Mr. Smith is stronger in South Carolina today than ever he was before—and he has for years, as speaker of the House and in other capacities, been a prominent figure in the State."

"This was not Mr. Smith's year to be elected Governor, but it was his year to gain greatly in the admiration and affection of his fellow South Carolinians."

DEATH OF A GOOD WOMAN

**Mrs. S. A. Porter Died after
Home Last Friday After
Brief Illness—Buried
at New Hope.**

Mrs. S. A. Porter died at her home in Jonesville, Friday evening and was buried the following day at New Hope church, two miles south of that place. She had been in feeble health for some time, but became seriously ill only two or three days prior to her death. Her death was a severe shock to her friends and relatives.

Mrs. Porter leaves one sister, Mrs. Mary Gilliam, of Union, and one brother, Mr. D. B. Fant, of Santee. Her husband, Mr. Marian Porter, preceded her to the grave about thirty-five years. Her surviving children are: Mrs. R. A. Whitlock, of Jonesville; Mrs. David Baker, of Shelby, N. C.; Mrs. E. M. Penny, of Pacolet, and Mr. H. W. Porter, of Jonesville.

Mrs. Porter was a woman of gentle disposition and was possessed of a kindly heart. She was slow to judge harshly and her deeds of kindness were many. She was a faithful Christian and lived each day in a state of preparation for the final summons.

Her body was laid to rest beside that of her husband and a son, in New Hope burying ground.

The community in which this good woman lived is poorer by reason of her departure.

RECOMMENDED FOR IMPORTANT POSITION

**Mr. John W. Gregory Has
Been Named for Appointment
as Federal Income
Tax Inspector For
South Carolina.**

Mr. John W. Gregory has been named for appointment as Federal Income Tax Inspector for South Carolina, the position carrying a salary of \$3000 annually.

Mr. Gregory has been deputy clerk of court here for a number of years, and is held in the highest esteem by all who know him. He is a man of strict integrity and is courteous and considerate to all. His appointment to the important position he will fill is a cause of real gratification to his friends. The appointment will be made some time in March.

Mrs. Lawson Improving

Mrs. W. T. Lawson who went to the Columbia hospital several weeks ago for treatment, is very much improved and will probably be able to return home the latter part of this week. This is very gratifying to her many friends here and throughout the county.

Address by Judge Smith

Judge Mendel L. Smith delivered a strong address to a large assembly of people at the First Baptist Church Sunday afternoon. The Baraca class of that Sunday School and those from several other schools attended in a body, and the public in general turned out to hear the address. The subject was: "The Life of Samuel."

The speaker held the undivided attention of the large congregation.

Kershaw is proud of these things for which he stood in his campaign and for his able race, which was the most ably conducted of all.

After the election he was urged from every quarter of the state to stand for the office of Circuit Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, there being a vacancy caused by the death of the late Judge Ernest Gary. To him has come letters and urgent solicitations from individual lawyers of the highest standing, whole bars, prominent and influential citizens from every walk in life. Usually this office is filled by the choice of the legal profession, causing but little concern among laymen, but probably no more interest of a general nature was ever taken by laymen in a candidacy for a judicial position than in this. He yielded to the wish of his people, and in so doing has presented a striking example of a response to that high sense of duty, which was the guiding star of that distinguished jurist whom he succeeds in this high office from this county—Gen. Joseph B. Kershaw.

This great honor has come to him by the unanimous will of the general assembly of the state. This action carries with it the highest expression of esteem and confidence.

Truly, at the age 44 years, he has accomplished much in this world. What a splendid field is now open to him in the prime of life! The office of circuit judge is truly a great one. The administration of justice is great calling and demands the highest type of ability, fearlessness in the discharge of duty and character. Mendel L. Smith will fully measure up to the standard and will make one of the greatest judges in the history of the state.

WILL LECTURE NEXT WEEK

**Mrs. Amy C. Weech, Organizer
of the W. C. T. U., Will
Make Three Addresses
Here Next Week.**

Mrs. Amy C. Weech, state organizer of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of America, will speak in Union next week as follows: Monday night at the High School auditorium, Tuesday night at the Second Baptist church and Wednesday night at the Baptist church at Monarch. The public is cordially invited to attend these lectures and hear this distinguished woman.

No admission will be charged but a free will offering will be taken which is turned into the state treasury and used for the prohibition cause.

Mrs. Weech has spoken in most of the principal cities of America and has a clear and forceful way of presenting her views and holds the attention of her hearers. She will probably hold an afternoon meeting for ladies only, but this will be decided later and announcements made at the opening lecture.

Mrs. Joseph Sprott, State president of the W. C. T. U. is very anxious to have an organization in Union and has on several occasions made attempts to place one of their lecturers here without success. She wishes it understood that men are not only invited to this lecture but urged to attend.

City Bond Issue Carries

The city of Union voted upon the question of increasing by \$25,000 the bond issue for the water works system. Those in favor of the issue were 251, while the total vote cast in opposition was but 22, giving an overwhelming majority in favor of the increase. Those familiar with the condition knew that the increase was imperative, for on more than one occasion the water has been so low as to cause serious danger to the city, to say nothing as to the health of the citizens. It is understood that the work of improvement will be pressed as rapidly as possible so as to avoid the danger that might arise from scant water supply the coming summer.

Appointed on County Board Education

Mr. Davis Jeffries has been appointed on the County Board of Education to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. H. C. Little. Mr. Jeffries is one of the most progressive school workers in the state. He has had wide experience and is gifted as an organizer. The board now is: Jas. H. Hope, chairman; Davis Jeffries and M. R. Sams.

A Valentine Party

Miss Fannie Lee Sparks entertained about forty of her little friends at a valentine party Friday afternoon. These little people had a jolly time playing games and had a guessing contest to find their partners.

The dining-room was decorated with hearts and numerous valentines, and red bells and was softly lighted with red tapers. Delicious jelly, molded heart shape and heart cake and mints were served by the hostess and her mother, Mrs. Bobo Sparks, and her grandmother, Mrs. Gibbs.

Fun Lovers' Club Gives Valentine Party.

The Fun Lovers' Club entertained at a valentine party last Saturday at the West End school building and every one was in a mood for a good time and had it. The club is composed of thirty-two members and each member was allowed to invite one guest. The rooms were charmingly decorated in red and white and hearts were in evidence everywhere, each person wearing a tiny red one.

Games were entered into with zest and the fortunes which were drawn from the magic fortune pie created a great deal of fun.

Mrs. O. F. Bennett, who made this delightful evening possible was ably assisted by Miss Mary Flynn, Mrs. T. P. Kennedy, Misses Cathrine Thomson, and Dorothy Bennett. Music was furnished throughout the evening by Mrs. Oscar Sullivan and Miss Catharine Thomson, and the honor guests were Mrs. C. R. Robertson and Mr. O. F. Bennett.

Delicious ices and pound cake and home-made candies were served the guests and each one voted this the most delightful party the Fun Lovers have given yet.

Entertainment at Tinker Creek

There will be an entertainment given at Tinker Creek school house on the 26th of February, at 7:30 o'clock. A small admission fee of five and ten cents will be charged and everybody is invited to come. Miss Sara Quattlebaum is in charge of this school.

Contribution to Belgians

The Adamsburg school sent a contribution of \$3.00 to the Belgian Relief Fund.

WASHINGTON THINKS SITUATION IS GRAVE

CRIMINAL COURT CONVENED MONDAY

**Several Cases Disposed of This
Week—Bills Returned
By Grand Jury.**

Criminal Court convened Monday, Judge Mendel H. Smith, presiding. Solicitor A. E. Hill was on hand to represent the State. The following cases have been tried:

The State vs. Furman Fincher, charged with house breaking. Plead guilty.

The State vs. George Wiley, charged with murder. Verdict: "We find the defendant guilty of manslaughter." "We find the defendant guilty of special count," this latter being the carrying of concealed weapon.

The State vs. Kin Garrett, charged with assault and battery. The case was not pressed by the Solicitor.

The State vs. R. H. Smith and Ben Sims, charged with assault and battery, etc. Verdict: Guilty of assault and battery, with intent to kill.

The State vs. Sam Meador, charged with rape. Verdict: Guilty, with recommendation to mercy of the Court.

The State vs. Crawford Thomson and Will Hames, charged with assault and battery, with attempt to kill and carrying concealed weapons. Verdict: (Jury not yet out.)

Bills Returned by Grand Jury.

The following bills were returned by the grand jury:

The State vs. Furman Fincher, charged with house breaking, etc. True bill.

The State vs. Ben Mooney, charged with assault and battery, etc. True bill.

The State vs. Sam Meador, charged with rape. True bill.

The State vs. Thomas Lyles, charged with assault and battery, etc. No bill.

The State vs. Pluse Hayze, charged with housebreaking and larceny. No bill.

The State vs. Kin Garrett, charged with assault and battery, etc. True bill.

The State vs. James Comer, charged with house breaking and larceny. True bill.

The State vs. Wallace Ratchford, charged with assault and battery. No bill.

The State vs. Will Dawkins, charged with murder. True bill.

The State vs. Russell Jeter, charged with murder. True bill.

The State vs. Arthur Glenn, charged with assault and battery, etc. True bill.

The State vs. Lula Smith, charged with assault and battery, etc. True bill.

The State vs. Will Rice, charged with assault and battery, etc. True bill.

The State vs. Jordan Smith, charged with violating the dispensary law. True bill.

The State vs. Farr Fuller, charged with burglary. No bill.

The State vs. Jesse Emerson, charged with assault and battery, etc. No bill.

The State vs. Ed Johnson, charged with assault and battery, etc. True bill.

The State vs. Jim Lee, charged with assault and battery, etc. True bill.

The State vs. Crawford Thomson, and Will Hames, charged with assault and battery, etc. True bill.

The State vs. Sylvester Wilburn, charged with assault and battery, etc. True bill.

The State vs. Robt. Long, charged with house breaking and larceny. True bill.

The State vs. Amos Hughes, charged with assault and battery, etc. True bill.

The State vs. W. E. Green, charged with assault and battery, etc. True bill.

The State vs. C. B. Gregory and W. T. McGowan, charged with obtaining signature by false pretense. True bill.

Purchases New Car

The Bailey Undertaking Company has just received and added to their rolling stock a handsome silver gray eight column funeral car, with handsome carved wood draperies, panels and silver mountings. It has the latest attachments and safety brakes and is said to be one of the few cars of this design and finish in the South.

Movies for School Children

Mrs. C. E. Storm, manager of the Edison theatre has been giving free matinees each afternoon this week to the school children in the different schools and the children have shown their appreciation by coming in large numbers.

Mr. J. D. High has been quite sick for several days, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. A. B. Brannon on Church street. His friends will be pleased to know that he is now convalescent.

**Believe Danger Zone De-
cree Develops Dangers.**

NO REPLY RECEIVED

**However, Relations Between
Gerard and Berlin Authorities
Are Said to be as Cordial
as Ever, Despite Crisis
in Affairs Now
Existing.**

Washington, Feb. 17.—Secretary Bryan said tonight that no reply had been received from Germany to the American note concerning submarine attacks on the belligerent merchant vessels in the new sea war zones under the German admiral's proclamation which goes into effect tomorrow. If a reply to the proclamation of the United States had been delivered in Berlin to Ambassador Gerard, the state department had not been apprised of the fact.

Publication tonight of the text of Great Britain's complete reply to the American communication concerning contraband and neutral shipping, which contains a warning that if Germany abandons the principles of international law by refusing to verify the character of a merchant ship before attacking, England may not be bound to the rules hitherto accepted injected into the general situation further uncertainties on which the development of the next few days were generally expected to have an important bearing.

While White House and state department officials did not discuss what might be done if any American vessels or lives should be lost in the war zones, it was admitted on all sides that the situation was fraught with many grave possibilities.

Representatives of the German government are entirely friendly in their conferences with Ambassador Gerard, and there is nothing to show that officially there has been any change in the good relations which have hitherto existed.

The manner of carrying out the submarine campaign is awaited here with considerable anxiety. It was hoped that since negotiations with neutral governments were pending the German proclamation would not actually be carried into effect for a few days.

May Go in Place.

Many American vessels will be in the war zones in the next few days, and these will be afforded, it is believed, an opportunity to reach their destinations.

The recent suggestions from German sources that American merchant men might escape attack if conveyed by an American warship has not met with approval in naval circles here. It was suggested that the threatened British retaliation for the German war zone order may be a blockade of the German coast. In that case not even an American man of war would have the right to pass the blockade lines alone.

Formal notice by the British of the blockade and recognition of it by the United States would at once remove from the field of diplomacy negotiations on all questions relating to the right of neutral nations to send cargoes of food to the civil population of the blockade state.

Work of Incendiary.

The store of Mr. J. N. Hall, just beyond the northern city limits, came near being destroyed by fire last Friday night. The store was robbed and then set on fire. When Mr. Hall went in Saturday morning he found a fire smoldering in a box of waste paper and the wall blackened. The floor and the paper in the box had been saturated with kerosene before the match had been applied. The only thing that saved the building was the fact that the paper in the box and the floor around was impregnated with salt, caused by the nearness of the meat box. The burning salt caused the fire to smother after the kerosene had burned. But even so, it was a very narrow escape, for the wall was scorched black to the ceiling. Quite a good deal of groceries had been removed from the building by the burglar.

Mrs. J. T. B. Vaughan Dead

Mrs. J. T. B. Vaughan died at her home near Santee Sunday night, and her remains were laid to rest in Philippi cemetery Tuesday.

Mrs. Vaughan was, before her marriage, Miss Ann Vaughan, and leaves her husband and four sons and one daughter, all grown.

Mrs. Vaughan was a sister of Mrs. R. S. Long of the section west of Jonesville.

Mrs. Vaughan was an excellent Christian woman, and her death is a severe shock to her friends and relatives.