

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS.

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## Fearful Loss Of Life Caused by Explosion in Rhoads Opera House

### Death List is Placed at 150—Seventy-five Sons Were Injured—Many More May Have Perished.

### Following Explosion Pandemonium Reign—Women and Children Crushed by Mad Rush of Men For Exits.

By Associated Press.  
Byertown, Pa., Jan. 11.—When daylight dawned the full extent of last night's horror, when the Rhoads Opera House was burned, was apparent.

The list of the dead is placed at 150 and the injured at 75.

How many were killed may never be known for among the victims of this awful disaster were a number of visitors and some strangers.

It is estimated that 400 people were in the hall when the explosion of the gas tank occurred.

The tank was being used in connection with moving pictures during an amateur performance for the benefit of St. John's Lutheran Sunday school.

Instantly the explosion occurred some one yelled "fire" and in an instant the center of the opera house was a scorching furnace.

The rapidity with which the flames spread was caused by the upsetting of oil lamp.

Even the men seemed to lose all control of themselves and fought with women and children who composed the greater part of the audience to gain the street.

In this manner many women and children, who might otherwise have escaped, were forced back and trampled to death.

Pandemonium reigned and the mad scramble for exits is simply indescribable.

Some of persons on the second floor missed their lives by jumping from windows.

In this way several were so badly injured they died.

Byertown is a village of about 2500 population and there is scarcely a house in the little town that has not been afflicted by last night's visitation of fire.

Per Picture of Disaster.  
Richard W. Stover, speaking of the fire said: "When the explosion occurred there were at least 30 boys and girls on the stage while many were behind the scenes. Without warning there was a terrific explosion which seemed to shake the entire building. Immediately there was a wild rush for the exits."

"People on the stage jumped over the footlights into the audience. The flames first consumed the flimsy scenery then came towards the crowd like a great wave, and suffocating smoke dropped men, women and children in its path. The flames did the rest."

"It was a pitiful sight and I will carry the recollection as long as I live. Once the crowd began to fight its way toward the doors, no power of earth could have saved all the lives, but I believe if the men had not lost control of themselves the loss of life would have been very small."

Removing Bodies.  
The fire was not brought under control until early this morning, after assistance had arrived from Reading and Potomac. The work of removing the bodies from the debris will be unusually tedious and hazardous. When the crush was at its height the floor gave way precipitating many persons to the basement and the bodies of these will be buried beneath the charred timbers and tons of bricks from the ruined walls. In addition to the opera house, the Farmers' National Bank, Rahn's Hardware store and three dwellings were burned."

Many Heroes.  
There were many heroes in the awful catastrophe. Some are not alive to tell of their deeds. They gave up their lives for others. Fathers and mothers who might have saved themselves, lingered to get their children and perished in the flames. Brothers who might have got out in safety, hesitated to make sure that their sisters were safe, and they, too, are numbered among the dead.

Sweethearts, with little thought for themselves, bent all their energy in the effort to rescue their companions and their lives were also added to the death list. Many that had reached outside in safety dashed back into the burning building in a mad desire to save. They never returned.

Tillman's Bill.  
By Associated Press.  
Washington, D. C., Jan. 14.—Senator Tillman introduced a resolution calling on the secretary of the treasury for detailed information concerning the national banks which have gone into receivers' hands since January 1, 1892.

### STEAL FROM FELLOW CONVICT.

#### Negro Steals Suit As He Leaves Jail and is Retaken.

Special to The News.  
Statesville, N. C., Jan. 14.—Sam Jones, a negro well known in the local courts, as a crap shooter and wife beater, and who recently completed a term on the chain gang, is in trouble again.

About two weeks ago, and only a few days after Jones was released from the gang, a new \$10 suit of cloths, the property of Ned Graham, then a convict, was missed from the convict camp. Jones was suspected of the theft, and on investigating the case Chief Connor found that Jones was wearing a new suit. A warrant was issued and Saturday afternoon Jones was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Ward. The suit of clothes in his possession was identified by Graham as his.

#### To Appoint Third Receiver.

By Associated Press.  
Richmond, Va., Jan. 14.—Judge Pritchard, in the United States circuit court announced that he would take under consideration the question of appointing a third receiver for the road late this afternoon.

#### Sentenced to Hang.

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 14.—Illie Rogers, a white man, was sentenced for the third time to be hanged for the killing of his wife. The date was fixed February 11.

## A. C. L. Joins Other Roads

Special to The News.

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 14.—Mr. Alexander Hamilton, of Petersburg, Va., first vice-president and general counsel of the Atlantic Coast Line, accompanied by Mr. P. A. Wilcox, of Florence, state counsel for the same company, held a conference yesterday afternoon in the office of Governor Ansel and the members of the railroad commission. Attorney General Lyon was also present at the request of the governor.

Mr. Hamilton, who did the talking for the railroad company, did not offer any definite promise as to reduction in rates, but contented himself with saying that whatever rates are put into effect by the road in North Carolina, either by voluntary agreement or by compulsion would be given South Carolina. He expressed the opinion that the conservative attitude of this state in such matters had done great good for the state and that this action on the part of the Atlantic Coast Line was in recognition of South Carolina's position. In what he said Mr. Hamilton wished it to be understood that he spoke principally for Mr. Henry Walters, who is the actual controlling interest in the company.

Mr. Hamilton in beginning reviewed the progress of the railroad rate legislation and litigation in the southern states and explained in great detail the agreements settled on in the state of Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina and the situation in Virginia, where conditions at this time are different from the conditions in the other states. He said that the only reason the Atlantic Coast Line had not agreed fully to the proposition made by Governor Glenn is that the proposition includes an agreement as to interstate rates and the Coast Line does not think it proper to enter into any agreement as to interstate rates unless it has the sanction of the interstate commerce commission. He did not see any reason, however, why the Southern interstate rate proposed by the Southern should not be put into effect by the Atlantic Coast Line, and if the schedule of rates proposed is put into effect in North Carolina for 12 months on trial the Coast Line would do the same in South Carolina.

Governor Ansel asked Mr. Hamilton what date he proposed to put those rates into effect, and Mr. Hamilton replied that he thought it could be done by April 1st.

#### REV. BARBER IN RALEIGH.

Learned Divine is Now Fully Accredited Rector.

Special to The News.  
Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 14.—Rev. M. A. Barber, who has become the fully accredited rector of the church, is a minister of decided ability and has been an ordained priest for about 10 years, holding important charges in Wilmington, Burlington and for several years in the state of Texas.

His ability is especially marked in his ministrations in the church and in enlightening parishioners a active church endeavor and personal Christian living.

#### Captured Blockader.

Special to The News.  
Winston-Salem, N. C., Jan. 14.—Revenue Officer Aiken, of Elkin, with the assistance of a man he employed to go with him captured a blockader a few miles from Elkin Saturday. The party was found at his plant which was in operation. He was carried to jail at Wilkesboro.

#### Lipton Denies Statement.

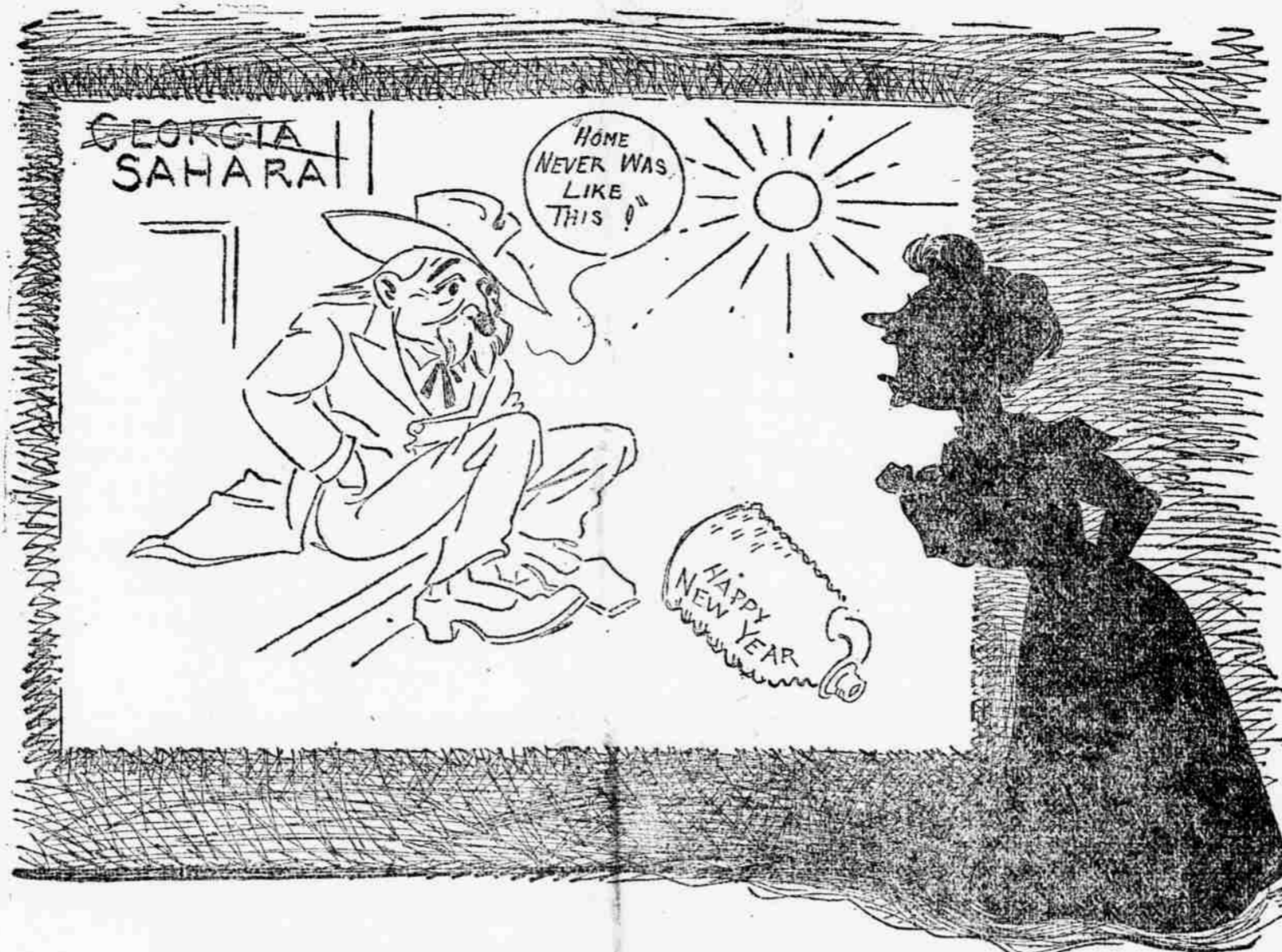
By Associated Press.  
New York, Jan. 14.—The Associated Press received the following cablegram from Sir Thomas Lipton: "Slave Island, Ceylon." Associated Press, New York. "Untrue, have not challenged. Too early. Size of boat no object." "Lipton."

#### Senator Bacon Chosen.

By Associated Press.  
Washington, D. C., Jan. 14.—Senator Bacon was designated by the vice-president as regent of Smithsonian Institution.

#### Mr. Lindsay Operated On.

Mr. H. W. Lindsay of Winston-Salem, was brought here and operated on at the Presbyterian Hospital this morning and his condition is satisfactory.



SINGING THAT TOUCHING ILLUSTRATED SONG, "IN DEAR OLD GEORGIA!"

## Two Of The City's Banks Merged And Will Have Capital Stock Of Quarter of a Million Dollars

### Sentence of The Goolds Not to Be Changed

By Associated Press.  
Monte Carlo, Jan. 14.—The appeal made by Vere St. Leger Goold and wife for a revision of their sentence has been rejected. Early in December Goold was sentenced to life imprisonment and Mrs. Goold was sentenced to death for the murder of Emma Levin.

#### ASSISTANT POSTMASTER.

Assistant Postmaster Lumpkin Will Succeed Mr. T. W. Stepp in Office.

Special to The News.  
Salisbury, N. C., Jan. 13.—Postmaster James D. Dorsett, of Spencer, has appointed Mr. F. M. Lumpkin, assistant postmaster to succeed Mr. T. W. Stepp, who resigned to engage in business at Hendersonville. Mr. Lumpkin is a man of fine business sense, was formerly a successful merchant at Spencer, and the patrons of the office will be the gainer by his appointment.

## State of Ala. Vs. Railroads

### Arguments In Famous Case of State And Railroads Over New Rate Laws, Begun—Is Law Confiscatory?

By Associated Press.  
Montgomery, Ala., Jan. 14.—Arguments in the contest between the state and railroads over the new rate law in the federal court, will begin today.

The settlement of the issue raised by the attorneys for the state on the validity of the supplemental rate bills, will advance the case to the main issue of whether or not the new rates are confiscatory, as alleged by the railroads.

#### BECKHAM SHORT THREE VOTES

Ballot For Senatorship Leaves Former Governor Short Only Few Votes.

By Associated Press.  
Louisville, Ky., Jan. 14.—A message from Frankfort says the result of the ballot for United States senatorship in the house and senate, leaves former Governor Beckham three votes short of election. A joint session will be held tomorrow.

#### Big Steamer Ashore.

By Associated Press.  
St. John's, N. F., Jan. 14.—The British steamer Tolesby, bound from Galveston for Havre went ashore during a heavy snow storm last night near Cape Race. It is thought the vessel will be a total loss. The crew is safe.

#### Invites Mr. Durham.

Special to The News.  
Winston-Salem, N. C., Jan. 14.—Rev. Plato Durham, of Charlotte, has been invited to respond to an address of welcome at the meeting of the State Council Junior Order of United American Mechanics here next month.

### Charlotte National Bank And Charlotte Trust Company Effect a Consolidation Giving New Concern \$2,000,000.

The Charlotte Trust Company is likewise in session as The News goes to press and is taking action to effect the consolidation in accordance with the above plan.

The present officers of the Charlotte National bank are B. D. Heath, president; John M. Scott, vice president, and W. H. Twitty, cashier, and of the Charlotte Trust Company, J. H. Little, president and C. M. Patterson, vice president.

Merchants and Farmers Bank. The stockholders of the Merchants and Farmers National Bank heard the best report of the institution, for the year 1907, in its history. The president's report was especially gratifying. It showed that the year was the most successful in the bank's history, notwithstanding the recent money worry, and further, that the affairs were in better shape than ever before.

The stockholders of the Charlotte National met at 3 o'clock this afternoon at the bank for the purpose of increasing the capital stock of the bank from \$125,000 to \$250,000; in other words doubling it. The new stock will be bought by the stockholders of the Charlotte Trust Company. The stock of the consolidated institution will be worth a premium. The amount of this premium is not yet given but assets of both banks have been carefully scrutinized and nothing remains but to figure the exact value of the premium. The new stock has all been taken.

#### The Total Deposits Will Be About \$900,000—Board Of Directors Increased From 9 to 22 Members.

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The consolidated bank will have deposits of between \$800,000 and \$900,000 and as already stated its resources will be between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000. It goes without saying that the new institution will be one of the strongest in this section of the south.

The stockholders of the Charlotte National decided to increase the board of directors from 9 to a number not exceeding 22 and the election of these new directors is in progress as The News goes to press this afternoon. This new board will not proceed to elect the officers of the consolidated bank until they have qualified, which will be within a week or so. The officers, it may be stated, however, will be chosen from the officers of both the Charlotte National and the Charlotte Trust Company.

The bank under the merger will continue at the place of business of the Charlotte National until the skyscraper is finished which will be by the end of this year or the first of next, when the bank will then have its offices in on the first floor of this splendid building.

The meeting of the stockholders of the Charlotte National and the Charlotte Trust Company will be held tomorrow.

#### TWIN SISTERS ARE 77 YEARS OLD.

Binghamton, N. Y., Jan. 14.—Mrs. Angeline Phillips and Mrs. Antoinette Gillette, said to be the oldest twin sisters in this part of the country, celebrated the seventy-seventh anniversary of their birth in this city.

Mrs. Gillette came from her home in Boston to attend the reunion and a third sister was present from Illinois.

The twin sisters were born in Boston, daughters of Gerry Terrell, who died at the age of 80, leaving 13 children, 10 of whom are living. His father lived to be 104. His widow, mother of his 13 children, died at 80.

#### Union Election Illegal.

Special to The News.  
Union, S. C., Jan. 14.—The contest in the election as to whether or not liquor should be sold legally in Union county, which election was held December 27th, was today dropped by mutual consent between attorneys representing advocates of prohibition and the county dispensary and the election has been declared illegal, null and void by the county commissioners.

## Annual Message of Gov. Ansel To The South Carolina Legislature

#### Ministers Resign.

By Associated Press.  
Tokio, Japan, Jan. 14.—Yeshiro Sakatani, minister of finance, and Isaburo Yamagata, minister of communications, have resigned from the cabinet. The resignations were accepted. The resignation of Marquis Saionja, prime minister, has been refused. It is understood differences exist over the budget, which are irreconcilable.

#### Death of J. M. Arthur.

Special to The News.  
Union, S. C., Jan. 14.—Mr. J. M. Arthur, who has been employed as overseer of the work room in the Union Cotton Mills, died Saturday night at his home on West End after a short illness. He is survived by a wife and five children, the youngest being only four weeks old.

#### Death of Miss Tracy.

Special to The News.  
Union, S. C., Jan. 14.—Miss Belle Tracy, daughter of Mr. J. B. Tracy, of Lockhart, died at her home near Adamsburg yesterday, after having been ill for several months with tuberculosis.

## Defense Opens In Thaw Trial

### Number of Witnesses Introduced To-day To Prove That Insanity Runs in Thaw Family—Day's Proceedings.

By Associated Press.  
New York, Jan. 14.—The direct case of the people against Harry K. Thaw, accused of the murder of Stanford White is finished, and today the defense began its effort to show that Thaw was not mentally responsible for his act when he shot White.

That insanity pure and simple is the defense on which Thaw's attorneys will rest their case was made plain in the opening address of Thaw's counsel yesterday.

There was a delay of half an hour in the beginning of the trial. Dr. John T. Deemar, one of the Thaw family physicians was the first witness. He testified at the first trial that he treated Harry Thaw as a boy for St. Vitus dance and measles. He repeated his testimony today and told also of attending members of the Copley family, the mother's branch of the defendant's antecedents. Dr. Deemar said Henry W. Copley, brother of the older Mrs. Thaw, died an imbecile.

On cross examination District Attorney Jerome drew out the fact that Henry Copley, while incapacitated for mental work, was never confined.

Dr. William W. S. Butler, of Roanoke, Va., former assistant physician at Western Lunatic Asylum, Staunton, Va., where Horace S. Thaw, paternal cousin of Harry Thaw, was confined, was the next witness. He was asked as to Horace Thaw's condition up to the time of his death. Mr. Jerome objected on the ground of the confidential relation between the physician and patient and was sustained. The district attorney also successfully objected to the introduction in evidence of commitment papers prepared when Horace Thaw was admitted to the asylum on the ground that they were hearsay. Littleton took exception to both rulings.

Dr. L. S. Foster, of Norfolk, Va., formerly of the Eastern state hospital for the insane at Williamsburg, Va., where William S. Thaw, another cousin of the defendant was confined, was the next on the stand. Dr. Foster was asked to identify the records of the asylum as to the admittance of William Thaw and did so. When the record was offered in evidence Jerome objected on the ground that it was not competent testimony and was sustained.

Mr. Littleton here recalled Dr. Deemar and succeeded in circumventing the former objections of the district attorney as to the case of John Ross.

Dr. Deemar said he ceased to be Ross' physician after the latter was committed to the Hope institution for feeble minded, where he is still a patient. He was allowed to tell of Ross' mental condition and declared it unsound, the symptoms being misanthropic.

#### Former Teacher on Stand.

Charles Kohler, of Minnesota, who was teacher at Wooster University, Ohio, when Thaw was a student there at the age of 16 or 17, testified that Thaw always had a nervous gait and walked jerkily, adding that his eyes were striking and his complexion anemic. He said his eyes usually had a fixed, staring gaze.

"There never was any warmth in his eyes, no illumination," he said.

Kohler said he set down many of Thaw's eccentricities in a diary, which was destroyed 10 years ago. Thaw's mind always worked slowly and he had great difficulty in following any demonstration. His manner was irrational.

Cross-examined by Jerome, the witness said he had often used Thaw's case as an illustration. At the conclusion of his testimony a luncheon recess was ordered.

#### Educational Work.

The message reviews the work of the state educational institutions, all of which are reported in excellent condition.

### Matters Treated in Annual Message of South Carolina's Governor Given Briefly—Discusses State's Finances.

### Assessment Of Property; Labor Contract Law; Liquor Question; Railroad Rates And Other Matters Touched On.

Special to The News.  
Columbia, Jan. 14.—The annual message of Governor Martin F. Ansel was read in both houses soon after the General Assembly convened at noon today. The message is short and business-like. Without preliminaries, the governor goes into the subject of the state's finances, stating that the state is one year behind in the collection of taxes, "or rather we collect the taxes at the end of the year for the expense of the state government for the year past, when we should have the taxes in hand at the beginning of the year to pay the obligations of the state as they mature." He says that on account of this system, the state annually has to borrow money to run the government until the taxes are paid and this year it was necessary for the state officials to borrow \$250,000.

"These conditions are likely to continue year after year unless provision is made to catch up," says the governor.

"I therefore recommend that at least an extra two-mill tax for state purposes be provided for at this session of the legislature, the same to be done for the next two years, when we will have in the state treasury money sufficient to place us where we will not be required to borrow, but "can pay as we go."

This is the most important recommendation in the message.

Governor Ansel calls attention to the fact that the appropriations for 1907 exceed the estimated revenue, and that this is contrary to the constitution of the state, to which he directs the attention of his general assembly.

#### Assessment of Property.

In regard to the assessment of the property for taxation, Governor Ansel quotes the provision of the constitution stipulating that taxes shall be assessed at a uniform and equal rate and he points out that there is at present great inequality in assessment. He suggests the inequity plan for ascertaining the amount of personal property owned.

#### Labor Contract Law.

The governor directs attention to the fact that what is called the labor contract law has been declared unconstitutional by the federal court and that it is the legislature's duty to enact such a law as is constitutional and at the same time just to both landlord and laborer.

"I recommend," he says, "that you pass a stringent act which will punish both landlord and laborer for a violation of a labor contract and make it a misdemeanor for one person to employ a laborer who is under contract with another. Require that these labor contracts shall be in writing and recorded in the office of the register of mesne conveyance for the county where the parties reside, and make this record a constructive notice to all persons of the contract. With an act of this kind, and with the act now in force preventing the enticing of laborers from the employer, and with a strict enforcement of both, together with the vagrancy law, much progress will be made in solving the labor question."

#### Agricultural Lien Law.

In regard to the agricultural lien law, permitting a farmer to give a merchant a lien on an unplanted crop for supplies advanced, Governor Ansel says:

"I think it has long since accomplished the purpose of its enactment, and I recommend its repeal. Too often the lien is taken up before the crop is planted, and often but little work is done after the lien is taken up. I think it better for the landlord and tenant that it be repealed."

#### The Liquor Question.

On the liquor question, Governor Ansel reviews the working of the local option county dispensary plan inaugurated just one year ago, and states that there are certain amendments which should be made to perfect the law in details, especially in regard to the closing of dispensaries without delay when a majority of the voters in any county signify their desire for prohibition in an election called for that purpose. In regard to this law, however, the governor says he will send in a special message later, giving suggestions as to amendments needed to perfect it.

#### Educational Work.

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