

3/30/1916

### Mt. Zion to Lose State Aid.

In a circular letter recently sent out by State Superintendent of Education Swearingen, attention is called to the fact that "A high school district, in order to receive state aid, must levy for school maintenance a special tax of not less than four mills. This new law went into effect March 15.

Up to the present time Mt. Zion has received from the State High School fund the sum of \$600 per year. This has enabled the school authorities to abolish all tuition fees.

School District No. 14 has a special tax of only 3 1/2 mills. It will be readily seen that unless the people of the district vote enough additional mills to conform to the new law, the district will lose all State aid. This will mean that Mt. Zion must reduce its teaching force by at least two teachers, or reduce the school term from nine months to seven months, or must return to the charging of tuition for all High School pupils. This charge, before it was abolished, was \$2.50 per month for all high school pupils, or \$22.50 for the section of nine months. These charges, if put into operation again, would amount to a considerable sum for the patrons who have two or more children in the high school department.

The work being done by the school at the present time is given recognition by schools and colleges all over the State. The enrollment of high school pupils is higher than that of any other school in the state in proportion to the size of the town. Are the people of the town and district willing to see the work of the school crippled? We have just secured an all day and all night electric current, we are soon to enjoy the benefits of water and sewerage; are we willing to advertise to the world that we are to decrease our teaching force when the number of pupils is constantly increasing, or that we have reduced our school term from nine months to seven or eight; that we are charging our high school pupils tuition fees?

At the present time four school districts in the county have a higher special tax than we have. Columbia has recently voted a special levy of five mills for school purposes. All the towns around us of any size have a higher special tax than we have, and have better school buildings. Shall we lag behind? Are we willing to lose \$600 for school purposes by refusing to increase our special tax enough to meet the demands of the law? If we increase our special tax by one

## RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

(BY W. J. ELLIOTT.)

South Carolina has always had a place on the map since the county was first settled and Fairfield county was always in evidence in all matters of war and peace. The Mexican war called a goodly number of Fairfield county men to the struggle, though I do not remember even having heard that any Fairfield county men were at the Alamo. (Can some student of history tell us?) I've seen the Butler-Dickinson-Gladden medal, which was presented to Mexican veterans from our old county. General Gladden, of Mexican fame, was a brother of Mrs. Powell, mother of J. W. Powell, now of Columbia. One old veteran of two wars, a native and life long resident of our county was Richard Jackson Gladney. He had one of the above mentioned medals and was proud of it. Mr. Gladney told me on a certain occasion that while he was in Cherubusco, Mexico, he was boiling some soup for Gen. Maxcy Gregg who was confined because of a wound and that the Mexicans were at the time shelling the town during an earthquake. He said they were up stairs in a stone or cement building and that between the shells and the earthquake he would "sware pint blank" the jarring "shuck" the soup off the riddle and broke the stitches in Maxcy Gregg's wound. He was very fond of talking of Maxcy Gregg. Mr. Gladney was a soldier in the "Uncivil" war and was a good fighter. It was told of him that he was very fond of one of the Jeters from Union county and was always apprehensive that some disaster would befall Jeter. So on a certain night while the Yankees were shelling our men he ran out and said, "Men, great God, look at that shell. I wonder where Jeter is"—and yelled out, "Look out Jeter, here comes a shell."

At a reunion of the Mexican veterans in Washington, D. C. Tom Mackey, who was a Mexican veteran, met Mr. Jack Gladney and inquired of him: "Now Mr. Gladney what branch of the service did you occupy in the Mexican war?" Mr. Gladney replied, "Only a private Judge Mackey. I fought through the Mexican war and through the Confederate war as a private." Taking Mr. Gladney by the arm, Judge Mackey said, "Come with me to the rostrum." Calling the assembly of veterans to order Tom Mackey addressed them: "Fellow comrades of the Mexican war, allow me to present to you Richard

near the light. Waiting around on the outskirts of the camp till toward morning they saw a Yankee come from his tent undressed. Slipping up to the fellow Kellar told him to keep quiet or he would be a dead man. Of course the command was obeyed. On this cold February night Kellar mounted this man on a Yankee horse without allowing him to dress and by breakfast time turned him over to Wade Hampton who was at the time in Chester. The town was full of men and women, when Gen. Hampton came out and arrested the man for appearing in company in that undressed condition, understanding full well why he was not dressed. The Yankee replied, "General, your men would not give me any chance to dress." The fact of this man's appearance in this guise at Chester is recorded in history and Walter Keller told me he was the man who captured the Yankee on the Adger place. In fact, he told me of the incident before I read it in (I think) Butler and his cavalry, by Brooks.

For a number of years after the war it was not safe for Confederates of Tennessee and Kentucky to return home. Some men from Tennessee stayed in Fairfield county. Two men whose names I remember were Fitzgerald and Bishop. They spent a good part of their time in western Fairfield and the negroes were very much afraid of them. Fitzgerald married a Miss Henderson, sister of Mr. Stuart Henderson of Newberry county. Mr. Stuart Henderson married Miss Ella Milling of the Salem section. I have been with them at their home near Blairs by the Newberry side of the River within the last six years. Mr. Fitzgerald died a year ago. On my trip to Mr. Henderson's I met Fitzgerald's brother from Tennessee who told me that it was not an uncommon thing to hear three or four shots at night and when morning came to find two or three dead men in the neighborhood. The place was thickly settled and it was neighbor against neighbor. He explained to me that this condition prevented his brother from coming home. So he married a congenial woman in a congenial clime. The visiting brother told me we had no conception of the condition in his state after the war.

I don't know when Bishop was from but he was coming from the same state. He was a terror to negroes. Some of the O'Neil negroes came to his neighbors to work for my mother and they regaled us at night with the terrors of Bishop. We were afraid to go to bed for fear we would dream of Bishop. The negroes seemed to fear him especially.

# The Fire

## Sale

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constantly increasing, or that we have reduced our school term from nine months to seven or eight; that we are charging our high school pupils tuition fees?

At the present time four school districts in the county have a higher special tax than we have. Columbia has recently voted a special levy of five mills for school purposes. All the towns around us of any size have a higher special tax than we have, and have better school buildings. Shall we lag behind? Are we willing to lose \$600 for school purposes by refusing to increase our special tax enough to meet the demands of the law? If we increase our special tax by one mill we can secure \$600 or perhaps \$700 from the State and increase our teaching force by the addition of another teacher in order to care for the increasing number of pupils.

What say the patrons of the school and the voters of the district?

The following letter from the department of education explains the situation as to our school:

The General Assembly at its recent session amended the High school law in several respects. The Governor affixed his signature March 15th.

1. A high school may be established by trustees without the trouble of an election or a petition.

2. A high school to receive State aid must have at least 25 high school pupils and two high school teachers and not fewer than three elementary teachers. One-teacher high schools receiving state aid this year are to be transferred to the Rural Graded class after June 30, 1916. All such schools should apply in August for aid for next year. Such applications should be sent to the State Superintendent of Education.

7. The limit of 2,500 population has been removed. Towns above this population are eligible for State aid. If such towns accept this aid, their high schools are open to high school pupils from that county or an adjoining county, without tuition.

4. A high school district in order to receive State aid must levy for school maintenance a special tax of not less than four mills. This may be levied as a general school tax, a high school tax, or both.

5. No longer will State appropriations to high schools be made on a basis of teaching force. A two-teacher high school is limited to \$500, a three-teacher high school to \$600, and a high school of four or more teachers to \$700.

6. The State Board of Education is empowered to establish not more than five teacher-train-

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There was quite a number of Sherman's men killed near Jack Gladney's house and they lie buried in the pines near the road. Three pines were known as the "Yankee pines" for a long time. Mr. Gladney was in no way connected with their death, so far as I know. Three of Sherman's men lie buried beyond the three-mile post near the home of Hugh S. Wylie and I know who killed them. I have also been informed as to who was in pursuit of the men killed near Jack Gladney's place. But after a lapse of so many years I presume its best that the names be kept from the public.

When Sherman's army was camped in Fairfield county some of his men were having a dance with negro women on the Adger place where Mr. Samuel Cathcart's present residence is located. The music was going at a great pace and all was merry. Walter J. Keller, who was a Confederate scout, in company with one or more of his comrades fed their horses from the troughs of the Yankee wagon in the camp at Adger. These scouts wore Yankee overcoats and it was hard to distinguish them from the regular Yankees. They witnessed the dance from the outside, as they could not venture

ing courses in connection with approved high schools. Not more than one such can be maintained in any one county, and not more than \$1,000 can be used in any one training course.

If any of these amendments in any way touch your high school, you are advised to open correspondence at once with the State Department of Education.

Yours respectfully,

J. E. SWEARINGEN,  
State Supt. of Education.

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Col. Rion had his own peculiar ideas about all matters. During a very exciting time in the court house yard in 1878 he said to me, "Elliott, where have you got your pistol?" I replied, "In my hip pocket of course, Col". He said, "Look down this roll of law paper in my left hand, and therein what appeared to be a judgment roll he nestled a 32 Smith and Wesson, saying, "I can pull my pistol without being suspected. You may be shot while reaching toward your hip pocket. I never was shot. I am thankful to say."

Jno. T. Yates, sovereign clerk, W. O. W., who makes his headquarters at Omaha, made an address to the Charleston Woodmen and their friends on Monday night.

Blind tigers and shipments of liquor going into Charleston continue to have the active attention of the constables. Police officers stay on guard at the express office.

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