

Established 1844.  
THE PRESS AND BANNER  
ABBEVILLE, S. C.

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 17 1920

## ANOTHER SUGGESTION

After Texas has produced almost a record cotton crop and rushed it on the market, assisting the powers that be in breaking the price of the South's chief commodity, we believe that the authorities in that state might allow somebody else to suggest that the acreage to be planted in cotton next year be reduced. The Texans evidently wish to grow another big crop and rush it on the market.

## A SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

Some three, or four, or was it five, years ago there was an election in this county on the question of issuing bonds for roads. In that election, the Press and Banner opposed the issuing of bonds for such purpose. It announced in one of its issues that it was sending some five hundred copies of the paper to those who were not subscribers to the paper. The Abbeville Medium replied to this by saying that if we had sent about two hundred more copies to non-subscribers we would have sent out as many papers as the Medium then was sending to its regular subscribers.

Which causes us now to ask the question, What has become of this subscription list? We are now sending this paper to more than nine hundred regular readers, who pay for the paper either in advance or who buy the paper for cash on delivery. To how many subscribers of like kind does the Medium go?

Any statement about the circulation of this paper we are prepared to prove to the satisfaction of our advertisers by exhibiting our subscription lists. We are even prepared to prove these statements by exhibiting our lists to the Medium where (if in no other way it may meet large numbers of old friends.

## TO OUR AMIABLE NEIGHBOR.

With all its faults the Abbeville Medium sometimes carries us back to the land of pleasant memories. Commenting on the imaginary misfortunes of the editor of the Press and Banner, and replying to some of our remarks which the Medium thinks uncalled for (but which it provoked by its evident personal references to us, and to which we shall never object) the Medium reminds us that the editor of this paper once was a candidate for Mayor in the city of Abbeville and was defeated. Passing over the fact that in the first race in that election we led four candidates with a considerable plurality of the votes which the Medium forgets and in the second race we were again ahead in the up-town box where the people who knew us cast their ballots and that we received in the first race against four men 184 votes, we think it was, while the editor of the Medium received in the city of Abbeville in his race last year, (running also against four men) 24 votes, we desire to say, and it is the first opportunity that we have had to say it publicly:

That we have always been appreciative of the men who voted for us in that election. We do not say that all the good men in town voted for us in that race, because that would not be correct, but we did not receive the votes of the sore-heads, nor of those who sit on the street corners and complain, nor of those whose subsistence depends on seeking public office. We received rather the votes of the men who have made Abbeville and who will continue to make it a fit place to live in; of the men who have built the enterprises of the city; who have contributed to all the good causes of the city at least seventy-five per cent of all the good which has been done, of the men who build banks, cotton mills, churches, schools, and such like institutions. We know the

men who supported us in that race and why they supported us. We are satisfied with them and their motives. We take pleasure in them.

We also have the "number" of those who pretended to be our friends and who we knew were not. We are thankful to those who were our friends, and we have never held it against those who were honestly against us. We have only made a cross-mark after those who sought to deceive. The successful candidate in the race against us many times during his administration when the interests of the town were to be served asked and received our assistance, and some of those who opposed us have in times of dire need not failed to ask our good offices to pull them through trouble and disappointments, and what we have been able to do we have done ungrudgingly.

We, therefore, think from our own experiences that it is a good thing for a man to run for office once (mind you, we say once) in order that he may ascertain, (whether they be against you or for you) who are the real men in a community, who work for the community unselfishly, and who are not two-faced, pretending to be friends to all parties but only spiteful towards all parties. There is another thing which a thoughtful man learns by running for office, and that is that office is not the place for the man who desires to be of service. In order to be of real service a man must be free from political entanglements, under political obligations to no man, and under no other obligations except those which come from honorable association with all men. If a man can run for office and learn these things, as we hope we have learned them, and we hope the Editor of the Medium has now learned them, we can settle down to the business to which we have been called in some way or other, and can then speak, and will speak our honest convictions. We will at least be in position to be of service to the people among whom we live, and to whom after all we all owe the greater part of what we are.

It is true that there are people in every community who undertake to "despitefully use" the man who tries to be of service. He is accused wrongfully and he is oftentimes misunderstood, but so long as a man has the commendation of his own conscience and speaks the truth as it is given him to see it, he should be satisfied.

And that is another lesson we learned in our brief experience in politics, and that is the reason we say that a newspaper man should not seek office, because humanity is weak and politics and office-seeking make "trimmers" of men, dam up the channels through which the truth should flow, and sometimes make cowards of the best of men.

We thank the Medium for bringing this matter to our attention and for giving us this opportunity to say this much of the men who in the twenty-five years we have lived in Abbeville have always been our friends, whose friendship we have always tried to merit, and whose friendship it is worth while to have.

We grant the Medium that there are some people in this community who despise us, and as Col. Roosevelt said, "the longer we live the more cause we shall give them to dislike us," because we are not here to be the partisan of any bad man nor of any bad cause, if we know it.

In the meantime we may say that we believe that we have the support of the thinking people of this community and of this county, whether they agree with us in all things or not, and our reason for saying so is that our subscription list continues to grow.

We thank you, again.

## A WARNING.

The City Council has just contracted to sell \$90,000 worth of bonds bearing 5 1-2 per cent interest at 92, which means that we are selling the dollars which we are yet to make at ninety-two cents each, and that we shall be compelled to buy these same dollars back at par. No criticism is intended towards the city fathers, however, for this condition. The streets have been paved under contract, and the money is due, and there was nothing to do except to do as well as possible. All kinds of securities are down, and are still falling, and our securities were on that account hard to sell.

While the above facts are true, however, it does not follow that we should make other bad trades where they may be avoided. This county has

voted for a large bond issue for the building of roads. If these bonds cannot be sold at par we should take notice that conditions are such that we should stay out of the road building business until times are better. A discount of eight per cent. on the bond issue authorized would mean a loss of about \$36,000 to the taxpayers of the county. It is hard enough to pay high taxes in these difficult times even when you get full value for the money spent, but we imagine the people who pay taxes in the county will not want to contribute to raising \$36,000 which somebody else will get for nothing in return. It is a good time to watch your step and go slow.

This does not mean that the roads authorized are not to be built. If the people still want to build roads they have the right to do so, but the fact that labor is getting cheaper and cheaper as the months pass, and that securities will likely improve in selling value, at least, suggest that we might wait awhile and do better.

There has been a suggestion that the next legislature authorize the sale of the road bonds at less than par. We think the suggestion unwise. We will have plenty of time to travel over the present roads, as the momentum of things generally is slowing down, and we can well afford to wait awhile and do better. Certainly we cannot do worse than to rush into big indebtedness just now. Taxes are now heavy enough and in the next few weeks the people will find that they are as certain as death itself.

## WHEN LIQUOR WAS CHEAP

A man by the name of John Martin—probably kin to some folks in Greenville—lived in Abbeville county more than a hundred years ago. The Abbeville Press and Banner has lately published some interesting data taken from his private papers. He was an Irishman who settled in Newberry but moved to Abbeville, possibly seeking more excitement. From his accounts it is learned that in 1845 ordinary shoes sold at eight, seven and a half cents per pair. The doctor charged him only one dollar and seventy-five cents a visit, including medicines. There are so many entries for emitties on the doctor's bills that the slogan of the medical profession in those days, instead of "operate," must have been "nauseate." The King's Creek church of Newberry county certified in a paper still preserved that Brother Martin "always behaved in a Christian, becoming manner," although he did buy a little dram now and then. One hundred and five years ago he bought a half pint of rum for eighteen and three-quarter cents. Somewhat later he acquired a half pint of whiskey at twelve and a half cents. Ten days later he bought the same amount at the same price. In November he took on a whole gallon at a dollar and a half and, evidently believing that "a little of the hair of the dog is good for the bite," got another gallon three days afterward. He never dreamed that a hundred years later thirsty hordes would pay twenty dollars for a quart of commingled shoe polish, wood alcohol and embalming fluid. The man who sold Martin the liquor was also a school teacher who charged him thirty-six dollars and forty-six cents for teaching seven hundred and ninety days. How about that for a low teacher's salary? Martin appears to have been a tailor, but he charged only three dollars for an ordinary coat and six for an overcoat. Nowhere does it appear that he complained of hard times, as now do so many of the prominent Abbevillians who whittle by day and setback by night when not engaged in fishing, hunting and practicing law.—Greenville Piedmont.

# WANTED!

## White Farmers

TO SETTLE IN BURKE COUNTY, GEORGIA. SPECIAL INDUCEMENTS OFFERED. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE THE BURKE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, WAYNESBORO, GA.

We print today an editorial from the Abbeville Press and Banner on "Watch Your Step," and we ask that you read it, and we desire to suggest to the city authorities of Newberry that they appoint just such an officer for this good town, and we hope that the appointment of such an officer will make it necessary for you to "watch your step." When that automobile blazed up a little the other afternoon from back fire and the alarm went in, they say that the street was filled with cars just as if there had been races on, and all wanting to see who could get to the fire first, surely not for the good they may do because every one who knows anything about efforts to control a fire knows that the crowds are always in the way rather than a help. Every alarm of fire is the signal for all the cars in town to hit the street, and see who can go the fastest. Marvelous that some one is not run over at every time the fire bell is sounded.—Newberry Herald and News.

## EXTRA COMMUNICATION.

There will be an extra communication of Clinton Lodge No. 3, A. F. M. Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock. Work in the second degree.

H. S. HOWIE, Secretary.

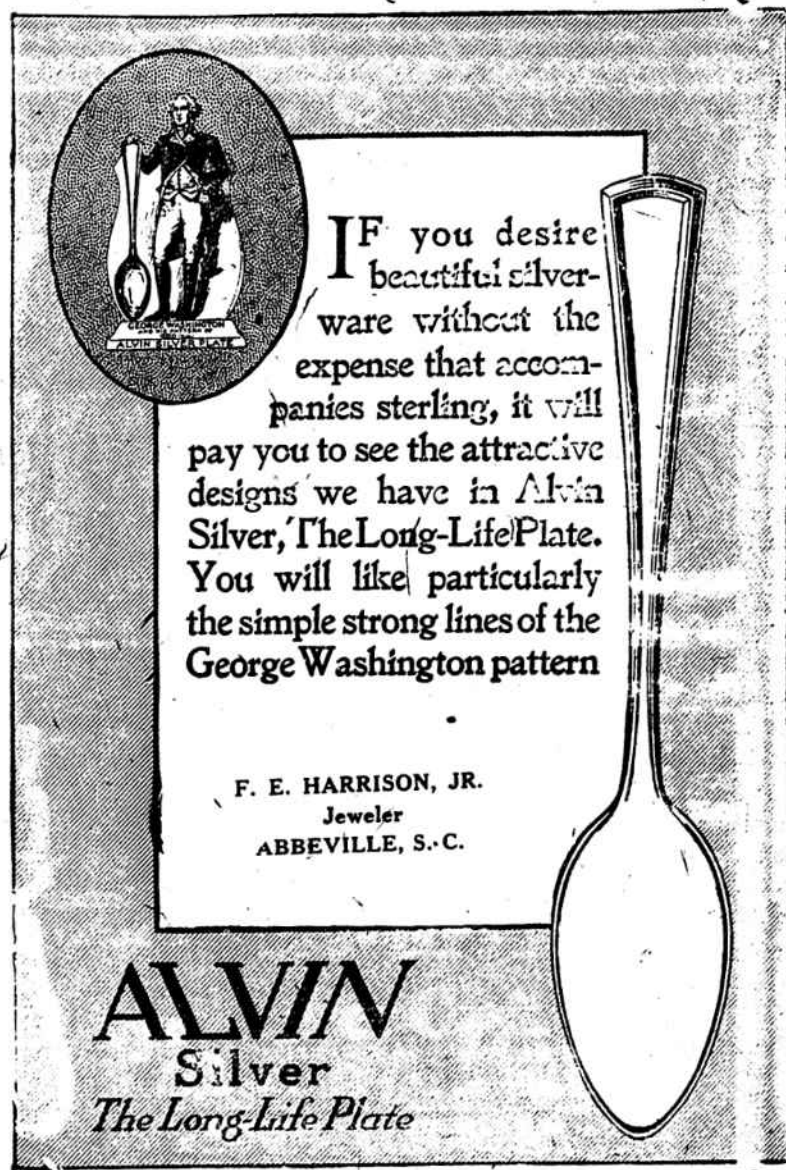
## MEN LAID OFF FROM WORK

Philadelphia, Nov. 16.—The Pennsylvania Railroad will lay off 2,500 more men, 1,000 of them on the Philadelphia division, within the next five days, according to announcement today by the company.

Since the end of October there has

been a total net reduction of more than 10,000 employees of the Pennsylvania system, most of them east of Pittsburgh.

There are about 175 parts in a watch and in the course of assembling a timepiece it is estimated that 2,400 operations are performed.



**IF you desire beautiful silverware without the expense that accompanies sterling, it will pay you to see the attractive designs we have in Alvin Silver, The Long-Life Plate. You will like particularly the simple strong lines of the George Washington pattern**

**F. E. HARRISON, JR.**  
Jeweler  
ABBEVILLE, S. C.

**ALVIN**  
Silver  
The Long-Life Plate

## EDISON WAS RIGHT AGAIN

THE prices of Edison Phonographs have increased less than 15% since 1914, and a substantial part of this increase is the 5% tax, which the Edison Laboratories pay to the Government.

The Edison Phonograph of today is a better phonograph and a better value than the Edison Phonograph of 1914. On the other hand, the dollar of today is worth, in purchasing power, only a little more than half as much as the dollar of 1914. Therefore, if you buy an Edison Phonograph at this time, you are virtually buying a before-the-war value, with an after-the-war dollar.

Why was it that Edison did not increase his prices and how did he avoid the necessity of doing so? Any commercial agency and practically any investment banker can ascertain for you that the Edison Phonograph Laboratories were doing business, in 1914, on a narrower margin of profit than was true of any of the other established phonograph, or talking machine manufacturers. How, then, did Edison manage to avoid an increase in his selling prices?

The story is dramatically interesting. The following is only the essence of it:

When the United States of America entered the Great War, Mr. Edison dropped all his work at the Edison Laboratories and enlisted in the army of American men of science, who pitted themselves so successfully against the world-famed German scientists. Cardinal Mercier, on his recent visit to America, credited Mr. Edison with a large share in winning the war for the Allies. The New York American of September 5th describes, at length, some of the inventions, which Mr. Edison developed and placed at the disposal of the Government. In this article, the New York American states that Mr. Edison appears to have been the moving spirit of the Naval Consulting Board of the United States.

When Mr. Edison gave up his own business for the business of the Nation, a very critical situation existed in his Manufacturing Laboratories, due to their inability to obtain various materials, and the necessity of finding satisfactory substitutes for such materials. If there was ever a time in Mr. Edison's career, when his personal attention to his business was required, it was when he went to war. Thomas A. Edison had reason to believe that he was risking enormous losses, by deserting his business, at the particular time in question, but he did not hesitate, and his example had a remarkable influence on the men and women, who remained behind. From the humblest workman to the highest paid executive in the Edison organization, everyone seemed determined to make good, while the Old Man was away. Vacations were passed up and doctors' orders were ignored by zealous employees, and, as a result, the Edison Manufacturing Laboratories were one of the few manufacturing concerns in the United States, where there was no loss of efficiency, during the war, and where there was, in fact, an increase in efficiency.

During the war, Mr. Edison spent most of

his time on the sea coast or at sea. On those rare occasions, when he visited the Edison Laboratories, it was difficult to gain his attention, for more than a few minutes, with reference to business matters. He did, however, state that the Edison Phonograph was his pet invention and he hoped that his business associates would be able, in some way or other, to avoid any increase in price, and that, if there must be an increase, he wanted such increase to be just as small as it could possibly be made. Mr. Edison said: "I am willing to stand the gaff. Music is an important thing. Let us make it as easy as possible for the people to have music in their homes in these nerve-racking days."

What was the result? The wonderful realism of the New Edison, "The Phonograph with a Soul," made it desired above all other phonographs, and its sale was stimulated by the fact that the increase in price was negligible. The demand soon far outstripped the supply. Overhead and sales expense were reduced to the minimum and, thanks to Mr. Edison's willingness to absorb a large share of the increased cost of manufacture, it was possible for the Edison Laboratories, by accepting a merely nominal profit, to avoid any substantial increase in the selling price of the Edison Phonograph.

It will be many years before the general level of commodity prices is as low as the present price of the Edison Phonograph. Leading bankers have expressed themselves as willing to lend money on Edison Phonographs, because they know the selling prices of Edison Phonographs are not going to be reduced.

Let us reiterate that when you buy an Edison Phonograph today you buy a before-the-war value with an after-the-war dollar. If you have any fear that there may be a reduction in the prices of Edison Phonographs, we are prepared to give you full assurance on that point.

Come in and Hear This Wonderful Instrument

## PHONOGRAPHS COMPANY

20 N. Main Street

Abbeville, S. C.