

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1906.

The *Sumter Watchman* was founded in 1850 and the *True Southern* in 1866. The *Watchman and Southern* now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

The *Columbia Record*, a newspaper that has succeeded because it compelled success by merit as a newspaper, has been enlarged and is now issued as a seven-column six-page paper. This enlargement necessitated the installation of a new press, and the *Record* is now in a position to issue a still larger and better paper than ever.

If the new directors of the State dispensary live up to the resolutions adopted at their first meeting and enforce the law to the letter, the dispensary law will at once become what it should be—a system for the regulation of the whiskey business and a means by which the admitted evils of the liquor traffic may be minimized. These directors can, if they are so disposed, accomplish what the Legislature refused to provide for—the enforcement of the dispensary law honestly and fearlessly. If this is done the opposition to the dispensary system and the demand for its abolition will die out, except amongst the blind tiger and high license element.

The conviction of George Hasty proves that the most adroit and resourceful of criminal lawyers cannot always defeat the ends of justice.

Mr. Harvie Jordan is a forcible and convincing talker, but the cotton growers seem to be hard to convince that the crux of the whole question of higher prices for cotton is the reduction of acreage. Unless the crop this year is kept within bounds, the holding of the surplus of last year's crop will not help the situation at all. A ten to eleven million bale crop this year will guarantee moderately high prices, while a thirteen or fourteen million bale crop will sell for 5 or 6 cents.

The senators have already commenced juggling with the Tillman-Hepburn-Roosevelt railroad rate bill. Before it has run the gauntlet of the railroad attorneys in the Senate some of the nominal supporters of the measure are interpreting certain provisions in a way that, if the courts take the same view of it after it becomes a law, will be all that the railroads could wish, for such judicial construction of the meaning and intent of the law would permit the railroads to tie it up hard and fast in the courts for an indefinite period, and in the meanwhile they could go ahead and violate the law with impunity.

It is stated by a well informed authority that the fear that there will be a deficit in the State treasury this year owing to the reduction of the levy for State purposes and the increase of the appropriation by the legislature in the face of this decrease in the levy, is not well founded. The position is taken that the ordinary increase in the valuation of the property returned for taxation coupled with the increase resulting from the efforts of Comptroller General Jones to have real estate and personal property placed on the tax books at something like its real value, will provide ample revenue for all purposes, even at the reduced levy. It is to be hoped that this view is the correct one. The State should be on a cash basis. It is not good business to pay interest, and there is no sense in the State continuing to borrow money to pay ordinary running expenses.

The fertilizer manufacturers must make immense profits if they can afford to throw away privilege tax tags as they are charged with doing. Last season there were reports from various points in this State that with almost every consignment of fertilizer there was a big overplus of privilege tax tags, and similar reports are coming in this year. If the reports are true the fertilizer companies are either careless in handling the tags or somebody is putting up the money to pay for those wasted. It looks more like carelessness, however, for it would be more sensible to destroy the surplus tags, if they are being bought for the purpose of creating a false impression as to the quantity of fertilizers sold in the State.

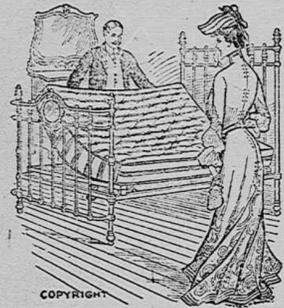
Judging from the amount of space devoted to him by the leading newspapers of the county Ben Tillman is as big a figure in national affairs as he was in South Carolina in the spring of 1890. In the spring of that year every politician in this State was wondering what he would do next and the national politicians are now in the same frame of mind.

The South is prosperous and money has been plentiful and credit easy because prosperity is in the air and everybody has confidence in the business situation. This condition has resulted from ten cent cotton, and it will continue so long as cotton can be grown

Bigham Furniture Comp'y

112 and 114 S. Main Street, Sumter, S. C.

7,000 feet of floor space to show an up-to-date line of House-furnishings, at prices that defy competition. YOU CAN BUY WITH OR WITHOUT MONEY.



You spend two-thirds of your time in bed. Why not have the best. We sell the Burnstein 3-Piece Bed and Fidelity Dependable Mattress.



Rockers, Rockers, 100 styles. Reception Chairs, the latest styles, within reach of all.



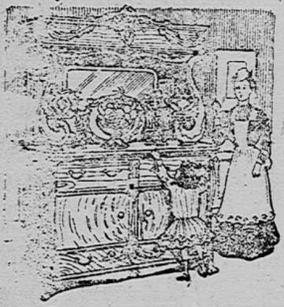
The baby wants a new Cart or Carriage this spring, and we have a selection that will please you and the baby.



The pleasure will be yours if you use one of our Desks, either gent's or lady's. Prices from \$5 to \$100.



A complete line of Cook Stoves and Ranges. The remnant of our Heaters and Coal Stoves will go at cost.



Our Dining Room Sets, Pedestal Tables, Box Seat Diners, China Closets and Sideboards are simply beautiful.



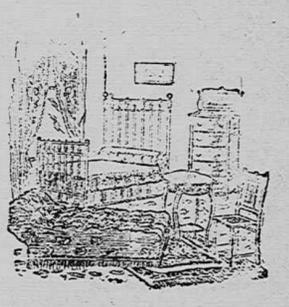
To make a beautiful cover for your floor, see us for Matting, Rugs and Carpets. We have a plenty for all.



You can't go wrong when you come to us for Lounges, Couches and odd pieces for the parlor.



Arn't they beauties? Boards at \$10 to \$100. To see them is to want them.



Room Suites from \$10 to \$250. You will be pleased to see them.

and sold at a fair margin of profit. A slump in the price of cotton to 5 or 6 cents would destroy confidence, make money scarce and credit difficult to obtain, and then there would be a season of hard times. This country is not on a cash basis by any means, and if the banks are forced to cease lending money and to call their loans, the paper profits of many who now think they are on Easy street would vanish. With so much dependent upon the size of this year's cotton crop it will be the part of wisdom for business men to be somewhat conservative.

Charlestonians are worried over Goose Creek water, and no one can blame them. It may be chemically pure and good to drink, but it don't look that way along the headwaters of the stream.

It begins to look like Columbia don't want the Castle Hall of the Grand Lodge, Knights of Pythias. Sumter does and when the Grand Lodge meets here in a few weeks Game Cock Lodge and the people of Sumter should be ready to talk business.

The effort to make the dispensary the sole issue in the State campaign this summer will fail. There are other issues and the men who will be in the campaign are to be taken into account.

President Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton, would undoubtedly make an ideal successor to President Roosevelt, but there are serious obstacles to his nomination and election. He is a Democrat in the first place, and in the second place he does not stand in with the crowd that attend the nominating conventions. In a word, he is too good a man to suit the tastes of the practical politicians.

Senator R. I. Manning is getting to be a big figure in South Carolina politics, when the Washington correspondents feel it necessary to telegraph their papers when he passes through the city and go to the trouble to surmise a whole lot of things about the purpose of his presence there.

THE EVENING NEWS SUSPENDS.

In the Saturday afternoon issue of the *Evening News* the suspension of that paper was announced. The *News* was in existence about 15 months, having been issued for about a year by the Freeman Publishing Company, with Mr. H. C. Haynsworth as editor, and subsequently by the consolidated Freeman Publishing Company and Knight Bros., with Mr. John M. Knight as editor. It was stated in the announcement that the continued ill health of Mr. Knight rendered it advisable to suspend the paper, and that under an agreement with The Daily Item the prepaid subscribers of the *News* would receive the *Daily Item* until the expiration of their subscription.

The suspension of the *News* will cause no change in the policy of The *Daily Item*, it having always been our policy and endeavor to give the people of Sumter the best paper possible and to improve it daily and as rapidly as the support received warranted.

The support The *Daily Item* has received is appreciated, and never more appreciated than during the time that there was an active competitor in the limited field. That this support was worth something a bare statement of facts will prove. When the *Evening News* was established the total circulation of The *Daily Item* had fluctuated between 475 and 525 for a long time. Since the *Evening News* has been in the field The *Item's* circulation has gradually grown, every month showing a gain, until the circulation for the past few weeks has averaged about \$90, some weeks a few more and then a few less. The greatest gain has been in the city circulation, the average paid up circulation by carrier now being more than 70 per cent. greater than eighteen months ago. Hence The *Daily Item* has good reason to say that the support it has received is appreciated.

A TWENTY-YEAR TERM.

Greensboro Physician Convicted of Murder in Second Degree.

Greensboro, N. C., March 9.—After deliberating for 13 hours the jury in the case of Dr. J. E. Matthews, the Greensboro physician charged with the murder of his wife, on December 1, 1905, returned a verdict at 9:50 o'clock this morning of guilty of murder in the second degree. Judge Ferguson sentenced the prisoner to the penitentiary for a term of 20 years. Counsel for Matthews immediately announced that an appeal would be taken to the supreme court.

Matthews relied upon a plea of insanity as a defense. There was expert testimony to support the contention. The prosecution established a motive, however, by introducing evidence to show that Matthews had threatened to kill his wife on a former occasion, when he claimed that she had been unfaithful. The most sensational allegation at the trial was that Matthews had injected strychnine into his wife while she was ill and while pretending to be offering prayer at her bedside. Witnesses from Richmond, Va., testified that the prisoner had made an unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide 14 years ago because of the death of his sweetheart.

Letter to J. M. Brogdon, Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir: When you can buy paint for less than Devoe; don't; save your money.
Mr. Aaron Higgins, Plainfield, N. J., always used 15 gallons of paint for his house; Devoe took 11.
Mr. Ezra Rathmell, Williamsport, Pa., always used 11; Devoe took 6.
Mr. Bart Young, Girard, Pa., always used a gallon for certain rooms; took half as much Devoe.
Mr. Nathaniel Barber, Canton, N. Y., bought 12 Devoe; used less than 6.
You can always buy paint for less than Devoe; don't; save your money. The wearing counts the same way and doubles the difference.
The cost of painting is by the gallon. Weak paint costs most; most gallons.
Yours truly,
F. W. Devoe & Co.

DESTROYED AN ICE PLANT.

A Serious Loss by Fire in Florence. Good Work of Firemen Prevented Great Damage.

Florence, March 9.—The old plant of the Phoenix Ice Company, at this place, was completely destroyed by fire at 1 o'clock this morning. The plant was a ten-ton one and had been in operation for about three years. The plant was valued at about \$8,000 and was insured for \$2,500 in the agency of Sanborn Chase. The old plant and the new 50-ton plant and was still being used to make ice, the new plant not being complete. By hard work the firemen saved the new plant with but little damage to the building and none to the machinery.

THE ATLANTA TRAGEDY.

The Murdered Girl Said to Be Engaged to Seneca Man.

Atlanta, Ga., March 9.—Mrs. Edward M. Standifer, aged 25 years, today shot and killed her sister, Miss Chappel Whisenant, aged 18, alleging that she had committed the deed because of her husband's attention to her victim.

The dead girl was to have been married next Wednesday to a young business man of Seneca, S. C., and all plans for the marriage had been nearly completed. Mrs. Standifer went early today to the home of her brother-in-law, D. B. Dunham, with whose family Miss Whisenant made her home and entered the sleeping room of her sister. What words passed between the two were known only to the two, but soon four shots rang out and Miss Whisenant fell, wounded in the breast just above the heart, and in other vital parts. She died half an hour later without having spoken. Mrs. Standifer went to her home, and telephoned to her brother-in-law's home asking if Miss Whisenant was dead. Being informed that she had died, Mrs. Standifer expressed no regret for her act and said she would follow Mr. Dunham's advice and surrender to the police. She was arrested later. During the day she conversed freely with the police officials, declaring that she had "avenged her outraged womanhood."

E. M. Standifer came to Atlanta about two years ago from Gadsden, Ala., where he married his wife. His father, he says, is W. S. Standifer, United States marshal at Gadsden, and his uncle, W. H. Standifer, he asserted, is assistant United States district attorney at that place. He was detained at the police station after his wife was arrested on the suspicion that he may have had some guilty knowledge of the crime.

The dead girl is said to have been engaged to be married to J. E. Sitton of Seneca, S. C.

Levan Monument Fund.

Mr. Editor: Since my last report I have received the following contributions to the above fund:

H. L. Scarborough.....	\$2 00
Jno. R. Haynsworth.....	1 00
Dr. H. M. Stuckey.....	1 00
Cash.....	1 00
Total amount received to date, including the above, \$48.00.	

The committee recently appointed by Camp Dick Anderson desire that this amount shall be increased to at

least \$75.00, and hope that friends in sympathy with the movement will not delay their contributions. A small sum from each will soon make up the amount desired, and thus enable the committee to get to work.
J. Diggs Wilger.

STRAYED AWAY March 4th, one black mare mule, about 9 years old, weight 1,000 lbs, scar on left shoulder, a little mean to handle. Reward if returned to J. S. Sanders, Florence, S. C. 3-13-31*

NOTICE.

For the benefit of our country friends, who have been kept from coming to market by the excessive rains, we will offer for

One Week More

Our 36-in. Carpets

at

22 Cents the Yard.

This carpet is made from southern yarns, and will wear better than matting. Half our stock already sold.

O'DONNELL & CO.