

The Watchman and Southron

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1909.

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

Lee County prohibitionists have begun to ostracize themselves and that thirdest destroyer at St. Charles may not eventuate.

Gov. Ansel has made an exceptionally good record in the discretion he has shown in the exercise of the pardoning power. Fewer criminals have been released from just punishment by him than by most of his predecessors in office. Not a hundred, but a thousand, guilty men escape punishment for every innocent man convicted unjustly, and ninety-nine out of every hundred who ask for a pardon should serve out the full sentence imposed when they were convicted. Gov. Ansel is to be congratulated that he has not abused the power that is vested in him and the State is the better for the policy he has wisely pursued.

It is about time for the last call on Mr. Taft to form a new party. He has succeeded so well in making good his promises to revise the tariff that the Charleston News and Courier ought to be ripe for initiation into the new party.

We trust that the bickering over the division of the dispensary funds between the banks will not overshadow the plan to put stripes on the grafters. This observation is based upon the belief that Attorney General Lyon is still camping on the trail of the grafters.

The removal of any of the dispensary funds from the Columbia banks was, in the first instance, an outrage and contrary to all precedent, it being an unheard of thing for any of the State funds to be deposited in up-State banks. But when it came to making the Columbia banks pay interest on the measly pittance of two or more hundred thousand dollars that was left with them, the outrage became worse than a scandal—it was more like cruelty to animals than the treatment to which they had been accustomed.

If the reports we hear from all sections of Sumter County are to be credited the cotton crop in this section will be so short this year that 15 cent cotton will not bring in enough money to even things up. But we are still hopeful that the actual conditions will be found less disastrous than they now appear. There was lots of calamity talk last year this time, but when all the cotton was picked it was found that there was a pretty fair crop—one of the largest the county had ever produced. All is not lost yet and there is a lot of come out in cotton, even after it has been totally ruined several times.

The State Press Association, which is an organization designed and conducted for rest and recreation and not for business or mutual benefit, is now in session in Greenville, and as the people of that town have announced their intention to give the editors the time of their lives, the session of 1909 will probably be entered on the records as the most successful in the history of the Association. Nevertheless, it is a great pity that the opportunity to make the Association a real benefit to the business of newspaper printing and editing has been so long and persistently neglected.

FIREMEN'S CONTESTS HELD.

First Prize in the Hand Reel Races Goes to Georgetown.

Union, July 7.—The State firemen's tournament started off today with a grand parade down Main street at 10 a. m. All the visiting companies were in line, and the men, machines and horses were gallantly decorated for the occasion. At 11 o'clock the hand reel races were pulled off, the entries being Anderson, Columbia, Georgetown, Newberry and Charleston.

Georgetown won first prize, \$100. The second prize, \$75, went to Columbia. Time, Georgetown 21 2-3 seconds. Columbia, 22 seconds. The same companies entered the grab reel race this afternoon, first money going to Anderson, while Newberry took second, the former in 21 2-5 seconds, the latter in 21 3-5. The hook and ladder exhibition by the Charleston company was practically abandoned because of rain.

The Supervisors of Registration were in their office Monday to issue certificates to those applying for them, but there were comparatively few certificates issued. Those whose names are not now on the books of registration will not be permitted to vote in the special dispensary election on August 17th.

Farmers' Union News

—AND—

Practical Thoughts for Practical Farmers

(Conducted by E. W. Dabbs, President Farmers' Union of Sumter County.)

The Watchman and Southron having decided to double its service by semi-weekly publication, would improve that service by special features. The first to be inaugurated is this Department for the Farmers' Union and Practical Farmers which I have been requested to conduct. It will be my aim to give the Union news and official calls of the Union. To that end officers, and members of the Union are requested to use these columns. Also to publish such clippings from the agricultural papers and Government Bulletins as I think will be of practical benefit to our readers. Original articles by any of our readers telling of their successes or failures will be appreciated and published.

Trusting this Department will be of mutual benefit to all concerned,

THE EDITOR.

All communications for this Department should be sent to E. W. Dabbs, Mayesville, S. C.

James Island, S. C., July 6.—I will not attempt to comment on any of the selections for this week, but will try to give my readers some of the impressions of James Island and its farming operations.

Yesterday the James Island Agricultural Society held its annual 4th of July meeting. The feature of the meeting that impressed me most was the report of the "Riding Committee." This committee of three had during the preceding week visited every farm on the island, and reported on the condition of the crops. In addition, this committee presented a detailed report from nearly every farmer, giving the acreage of each crop and the amount of fertilizer used. I was surprised and pleased to note the amount of "compost" (stable manure, horse and cows) used. Almost every farmer keeps as many cows as the last year's acreage in Sea Island cotton will provide pasture for. In conversation with Capt. Rivers, the oldest and one of the most successful planters on the island, he said that he regarded farming without cattle as but half-way work. The milk and butter, the money return from sales of the increase of the cattle, being but incidental; the great good being in the mechanical effect on the soil by the tramping of the cattle, and the promotion of bacteria by the use of the manure, without both of which there could be no successful production of Sea Island cotton.

Another committee gave the result of last year's crop in pounds of lint cotton, which ranged from about 200 to 350 lbs. per acre. A committee of the younger members of the society was provided for at this meeting to experiment in the use of nitrate of soda, so that in a few years there may be no guess work about the right quantity, if any at all, for the best results. At present the usual quantity was 50 pounds per acre to stimulate rapid growth at first. Later applications promote weed growth and prevent maturity.

After the regular routine business was over several visitors were invited to address the meeting. Col James Henry Rice on the "Necessity of Bird Protection." It was my first opportunity to listen to him, and I wish him to address our Sumter farmers sometime. Mr. La Roche, of Edisto Island, presented the results of the investigation of the committee of the Sea Island cotton growers in West Indian competition, and the necessity of better marketing arrangements. He drew a very glowing picture, and some members of the Society thought they should lay in a supply of crepe and go into mourning over the grave of Sea Island cotton culture. His discussion of the marketing arrangements showed the necessity of wider co-operation than can be effected by one society. Some of his statements bear repetition for the warning they give short cotton growers. Among them: "The handlers of long cotton are not interested in obtaining the highest price, for they are paid for their ability to buy cotton cheap, hence they make concessions either in grade or price to satisfy the buyer whose agents they really are." Do not we sellers of short cotton know of buyers who were paid cash prizes by big export houses for their ability to buy high grades cheaper than their fellow buyers?

The next speaker was the inimitable Col. "Jimmie" Armstrong, whom I saw for the first time, and who I found was an army comrade of my father's in Gregg's 1st Reg. S. C. V. and could recall nearly every man of the Pee Dee Artillery, which was originally part of the 1st Regiment. He said he was an honorary member of the Society and all of his experience in farming was that as a lad he "harrowed his parents feelings," and as a youth "sowed his wild oats." No further attempt will be made to report his remarks. Those who have heard him can understand that one must hear him and see his snow white hair and the beautiful expression that flits across his ruddy countenance, and twinkle in his Irish

blue eyes, to appreciate the wit and pathos and humor with which he garnishes words of wisdom and soberness and truth.

Your editor was then called upon to tell them something of farming conditions in the interior. As he had come to learn and not to teach he could only give them greetings from their brother farmers of the interior, and invite them to a wider co-operation by joining the Farmers' Union. This Society is so much more thoroughly organized, and works so much more in harmony than the farmers of the interior, that it would have been presumption in me to invite them to join us, but for the fact that we need their example, and they need the wider co-operation the Farmers' Union can give.

After the meeting closed a long portable table was spread in the hall and a sumptuous dinner served.

A word or two as to agricultural societies and this letter must close. There are three in the up-country, the Beech Island Farmers' Club, The Pendleton Agricultural Society, and The Darlington Agricultural Society. These societies have a continuous history of about a hundred years. Down here is the Goose Creek Agricultural Society, The South Carolina Agricultural Society (sometimes called the Belgian block farmers of Charleston) and the James Island Agricultural Society with authentic records of a century or more.

Why such societies have not been able to live in other counties has always been a mystery to me. The good that these societies have done is beyond calculation. Can not we make the Farmers' Union in Sumter County the rallying point for a live farmers' club in every neighborhood with the County Union for the central headquarters? This letter is too long and I must close. I am sitting on the veranda of "Seaside Cottage" while the tide laves the steps to the beach 40 feet away. A hundred yards off my little girls are enjoying a bath in the waters of old ocean. Just across the Sound is Secessionville. Beyond is Folly Island, a little to the left is Morris Island Light House, which can be seen 60 miles out at sea. On the boat landing I can see the lights of Sullivan's Island. To the right the line of fortifications, and the site of the battle of Secessionville. Behind me is James Island, as fertile as the Delta of the Nile, with its white dwellings on every point of land, the tide coming up to within 50 to 100 feet of every house. Beyond is the city which I can see over the tree tops and

A Single Fact Is Worth A Shipload of Argument.

It is a fact that we have a conservative Board of Directors who personally inspect our affairs, and we offer to you a safe Depository whose facilities for handling your business are unsurpassed.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SUMTER, S. C.
Capital, \$100,000.00. Surplus, \$80,000.00.

HOG FEED CHEAP

CARLOAD EXTRA NICE

RICE FLOUR

The cheapest and best Hog Feed you can use. We will sell it cheap as long as it lasts.

Booth-Harby Live Stock Co.,

SUMTER, S. C.

the Ashley river, from every little elevation.

If I can find a quiet moment from the hospitalities that are as are obtrusive as they are gracious, I will try to write another letter or two for the next week's issues.

E. W. D.

The county officials desire to state that they petitioned the County Commissioners for only one adding machine for the entire corps of officers, and not one for each office, as was the impression of the press. They do not want to be extravagant.

Jesse Douglas, colored, aged 15, was drowned Monday morning about 11 o'clock in the Evans Mill pond, near Society Hill. Jesse, with a companion attempted to swim up the stream from the bath houses to the flood gates, where the water is over ten feet in depth. When about 25 feet from the gates, he cried out, "I can't make it," and sank and rose three times and went to the bottom. His body was recovered on Tuesday about 1 o'clock.

The Atlantic Coast Line will erect Y. M. C. A. buildings at Florence and Charleston.

He who jumps at conclusions seldom gets there with both feet.

Daily New York Cotton Market.

New York, July 8—					
	Open	High	Low	Close	
Jan	12 24	12 31	12 20	12 22	
July	12 04	12 25	12 04	12 13	
Oct	12 13	12 27	12 12	12 20	
Dec	12 23	12 32	12 23	12 25	

Tone—Nearly steady.

Do You Know It Requires 4 to 6 Years

To build a Steiff or Shaw piano, from the time we place the lumber in our lumber yards until the piano is finished? We air-dry all our lumber and that is one reason why our pianos are so thoroughly good.

The Lumber

In about two-thirds of the pianos made in virgin forests less than twelve months before they are finished ready to sell. They are made out of kiln dried lumber and this is the principal reason they will not stand and are so unsatisfactory after a few years. One piano in a life-time is enough and if that piano is a STIEFF it will.

WRITE TO-DAY

Chas. M. Steiff

MANUFACTURER OF THE

Artistic Steiff, Shaw and Steiff Self-player Pianos.

Southern Wareroom
6 WEST TRADE ST.

CHARLOTTE, - N. C.

C. H. WILMOTH,
Manager.

(Mention this paper.)

Nunnally's

WE receive every few days by express an assortment of Nunnally's Fine Candies, in all size boxes. There is none better.

Telephone 283. SIBERT'S DRUG STORE, 8 S. Main St.
W. W. SIBERT.

Many are Called, but a Great Many Go Back to Sleep.

We are wide awake for banking business in every department and are prepared to make good. No account too small and none too large to receive courteous treatment. Remember the name and place and take your business to

The FARMERS' BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

Did You Ever Think Of it in This Way?

If you save \$100 from your earnings during a year it is the same amount you would receive on a \$1,250 investment for one year at 8 per cent.

To save, one must sacrifice. The best things of life are gained this way. If you want to lay aside a part of your earnings, come to this bank and open an account. A bank account will assist you greatly in the undertaking.

We welcome the small depositor.

The Bank of Sumter.

O'DONNELL & CO.

E. P. Reed & Co. Ladies Fine Oxfords,
\$3.50 Quality, Special, - - - \$2.98

E. P. Reed & Co. Ladies Fine Oxfords,
\$3.00 Quality, Special, - - - \$2.39

Just Right, Mens' Low Cut Shoes, Vici,
Kid and Gun Metal,
Worth \$3 50, Special, - - - \$2.75

Just Wright, Mens' Low Cut Shoes,
\$4.00 Tans, Special, - - - \$2.95

LIKE THE CELEBRATE RED AUTO—

OUR LAST SHIPMENT IS IN SO GET BUSY.

YOURS,

O'Donnell & Co.

THE TIME TO BUY

You want to own your home. Every good citizen does. If you do not already own your home, you can't get on the right road any too soon. The present offers you exceptional opportunity to make a start. Business has been rather quiet the past two years, and there are a number of bargains to be picked up here and there from parties who want to turn their property into cash. I have a number of such propositions to offer you. If you want to buy a home or lot it will pay you to see me.

CITY FARM AND TIMBER PROPERTY HANDLED. REAL ESTATE LOANS NEGOTIATED. R. B. Belser, REAL ESTATE ATTORNEY. 26 1/2 N Main St. Sumter, S. C.

MONEY INVESTED IN REAL ESTATE MORTGAGES. LET ME INVEST YOUR IDLE MONEY AT 7 AND 8 PER CENT.