

The Watchman and Southron.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 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.

COUNTY BOARD MEETING.

Resolving Managers for County Hold Monthly Session.

The regular monthly meeting of the County Board of Commissioners was held Tuesday with all members present.

Mr. A. W. Newman presented a petition asking that a road running from "New Road" at the place of B. B. Seymour and intersecting the Manning and Sumter road at J. J. Britton's store be made a public highway.

The board granted the petition, provided all rights of way are given by land owners and the citizens first put the road in good traveling condition without cost to the county, with the exception of the necessary lumber for bridges.

Mr. J. P. Ives, old Confederate soldier, was granted the county pension of \$4 per month.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the matter of continuing the employment of the floating gang on roads and bridges for the coming year, of 1910, be left to the discretion of the supervisor, as in the judgment of the board the floating gang was an economy and success.

The presentation of the grand jury at the fall term of court was read and that part of it relating to the nuisance of plowing up the roads was fully discussed with a view of discovering some way to abate the said nuisance. It was resolved to request those members of the grand jury who were possessed of definite knowledge of such persons or persons who have been guilty of such trespass upon the public roads, to assist the supervisor and commissioners by lodging with them such information as would enable the supervisor to apprehend the guilty parties. Action will be taken at once upon any information sufficiently definite to convict persons guilty of plowing up or otherwise damaging the public roads.

The usual number of bills were audited and ordered paid and after disposing of all routine business the board adjourned.

STAMP IN COTTON.

Seasonal Decline Follows General Liquidation—Last Prices 27 to 61 Points Lower, With Current Crop Deliveries at Lowest Level.

New York, Nov. 4.—There was a seasonal break in the cotton market today as a result of general liquidation following persistent rumors that the big bull leaders had liquidated their long lines. The market found very little support and the close was weak at a net decline of 27 to 61 points, generally 49 to 61 points lower on current crop deliveries.

The opening was easy at a decline of 19 to 19 points, and shortly after the opening active months were 21 to 25 points net lower in response to lower Liverpool cables and selling for a reaction by local professionals. Covering by foreign straddlers furnished the market some support during the morning and slight rallies occurred but later the volume of liquidation became enormous with outsiders frightened by the continued absence of bull support and rumors that the leading operators had out stop loss orders were caught on the decline and the market during the rest of the day was seasonally weak.

January contracts sold off to 14.53, and later 14.78, or 51 to 53 points lower and from 54 to 57 points below the high records of the previous day. Last prices were at the lowest. The fact that the leading bulls did not come to the support of the market on the break was taken by many as confirming the rumors regarding the liquidation of the big long lines during the past two or three days and while there was no particular change in the news sentiment was evidently very much unsettled. Some thought the heavy selling reflected the possibility of a less bullish report from the National Ginners' Association between now and the end of the week than had been looked for earlier. Southern spot markets reported early, were unchanged to 1-16c lower.

Receipts at the ports today 65,938 bales against 59,486 last week and 62,634 last year. For the week 499,000 bales against 418,571 last week and 485,469 last year. Today's receipts at New Orleans 7,918 bales against 16,367 last year. At Houston 12,604 bales against 18,528 last year.

Spot cotton closed quiet, 25 points lower; middling uplands 14.95; middling gulf 15.20; sales 243 bales. Futures opened easy and closed weak.

The United States government will send road experts and photographers to South Carolina to study the roads.

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.

Some Random Thoughts.

The two articles about how to set fruit trees, and putting waste land in locusts are well worth a careful reading. We should devote more time to growing fruit for the health considerations of our families regardless of what money might be made of the surplus or saved by making fruit take the place of more expensive and less nutritious diet. There never was a better time for the farmers of this section to begin. With all farm products bringing almost fabulous prices we do not need to consider so much the cost of putting in some fruit, and ornamental or useful trees. Another clipping deserving special mention is the one about beautifying the home. It will be necessary to have some fencing to do any of this work properly.

One of our greatest needs before we begin to farm properly is more fences. Every field should be fenced off, and crops so arranged that there will be no conflict of harvests. This is work the union should take up and discuss until every farm is back under fence.

The union must also spend some of the time of its meetings this winter in full and free discussions of the right balance of crops on the farm not only for next year but for years to come. Do not let us go wild on 15 cents cotton. With pork at 20 cents a pound in our city markets we can make more money by feeding the people than by clothing them when the labor is considered. Any way some of our attention should be given to growing hogs and cattle.

I wish we had space to publish the results of the boys corn contest this

year. When our boys find there can be grown four or five times as much crops on an acre as we are now doing, there will not be so many of them rushing off to other professions.

Planting Fruit Trees.

Now is the best time for planting fruit trees of all sorts in the South, with the single exception of figs. Most inexperienced planters want to get trees three or four years old with the idea that they will give fruit sooner, while the reverse is true. I have long since quit planting any fruit trees older than one year—peach trees, of course, have always been planted as yearlings—but apples and pears and other fruit trees have commonly been let grow in the nursery till three or four years old.

The consequence is, that the nurseryman, knowing that most people want a tall tree, heads his trees three or four feet from the ground, and when such trees are planted, this height of stem must be accepted with all its disadvantages.

But the tree that has been in the nursery but a single season is a mere switch, with live buds from the ground up, and is just in shape for the orchard planter to form the tree as it should be. Such trees can be sold for a lower price, cost less to pack and freight, and live better when transplanted.

But the great advantage in planting yearling trees is that the grower can make low-headed trees, and in these days of spraying, low-headed trees are very important for ease in spraying alone.

But there are other reasons why we should have trees with short stems. The only need for a stem to a tree is to carry the head, and if we have

enough for that purpose, there is no need for growing extra feet of stem. The taller the tree the more liable it is to be blown over, the more the fruit is blown off, and the more it is bruised by a long fall. It is easier, too, to gather fruit from a low tree than from a tall one—and another important matter in the South is, that it is easy to protect the stem that is only a foot long from the sun until the top shades it over, for sun-scald is often a serious damage on a tall, exposed stem.

Having, then, trees of the proper age, how shall we plant them? Formerly writers on fruits placed great stress on the importance of digging and saving all the roots. Of course, it is important that the trees should be carefully lifted and the roots protected from drying out in the sun and wind, and good nurserymen fully understand this.

But no matter how carefully a tree is lifted from the nursery, nor how carefully it is packed, the root hairs on the extremity of the fine fibers are all destroyed, and as these root hairs are the only part of the root that takes food from the soil it is of the greatest importance that new ones shall be formed as soon as possible after planting. The new fibers and root hairs are more quickly formed on roots pruned with a sharp knife than from the old dried-up fibers. Hence we find that good pruning of the roots before planting is important. It has been shown that we may now prune off all the roots to a mere stub as long as one's finger and can then plant the tree in a hole made with a crow-bar, and it will live and grow.

I am not ready to advise such radical pruning, but do advise pruning all roots to about six inches in length, making a clean sloping cut on the underside of the root. The preparation of the ground is, of course, rather important. It should be broken and subsoiled sixteen inches deep, and if the rows are checked out with a good two-horse plow, there will be no need of digging holes for the trees at the intersections. For apple trees, make the rows 35 or 40 feet apart each way; the greater distance for the strongest soil. At 40 feet apart you can plant peach trees between the apples, and they will have run their course and can be removed by the time the apples need all the room.

See that the trees are lined in well in both directions, if only for looks. In planting, ram every inch of soil as it is put in as tight as though setting a gate-post, putting the surface soil in the bottom of the furrows. Never put any manure in contact with the roots of a tree. If the soil needs the manure, put it on after planting.

Having the tree planted, cut the top off just above a bud about 18 to 20 inches from the ground—you will then have rows of little stumps. In the spring as the growth starts select three or four buds to form the limbs

to carry the head and rub off all buds below. Do not have the limbs start opposite, but arrange around the stem in natural order from within a foot of the ground up. Then, if care is taken in the subsequent pruning to form a round, open head, you will have bush-shaped trees.

The Keiffer pear tree should have a different pruning from the apple. It is naturally inclined to make long side limbs that are apt to break down. In planting a Keiffer pear tree I would use the same yearling trees as of apples, but instead of cutting it back to a short stem I would leave the switch entire to form a central stem, cutting it only slightly back to four feet in height. Then in spring I would let all the buds start from the ground up, and would rub off those below a foot and all weak shoots above so as to leave the limbs free from interference. Then keep the lower limbs the longest and form the tree to a regular pyramid. This will require a good deal of summer pinching, but it is the best form for the Keiffer.

In all subsequent growth, of apples particularly, watch the start of water sprouts in the centre of the tree and rub them out while young.—Prof. Massey in Progressive Farmer.

PLANT LOCUST TREES.

Many Gullied Spots Might Thus Be Made Fertile and Productive.

Messrs. Editors: About twenty years ago I began to plant black locust sprouts in waste and badly washed lands on my place, using such spots as could never be restored to cultivation. These places can be made both profitable and beautiful by planting them to black locust, and I know there are many thousand farms in the South with just such places all washed and gullied.

These should be planted to locust, and thus be made to produce millions of posts and poles where they now bring nothing.

I have set over a thousand in the last few years, and they have a great many springing up all around them which makes quite a thicket of them. This is best, because where they are thick they grow tall and straight. One of my eighteen-year-old trees blew down and we made twenty-two nice posts from it. I don't know of any timber that is its equal for durability except the osage orange or Bois d'arc. Cattle are very fond of locust sprouts, and will keep them eaten clean where they become a nuisance to any one. The young trees make the best hubs for all kinds of vehicles, and also the toughest and most lasting ship pins and braces. The timber also puts on a very nice polish.

One man planted two acres of badly washed lands to locust sprouts eight feet apart, then when he threshed his wheat close by he used the straw as a mulch between the trees to shade the land and keep it moist and from

further washing. At trees he was offered three hundred dollars an acre for the original trees, there were hundreds of young sprouts and trees that came up among them; but he refused to sell them, saying to the parties that if at 12 years they would make single posts, in 12 more years they would be worth four times \$300 or \$1,200 an acre. I don't know how he came out, but I do know he had a good thing of it and made two acres of gullied and practically worthless land pay him the best profit for the least labor of any land he had.—J. W. Day in Progressive Farmer.

It Pays to Make a Pretty Home.

Did it ever occur to you that it pays to make a beautiful lawn and plant it well with shrubs and flowers? Take two farms side by side, one with a bare house and cotton fields right up to the door, and another along-side with a well painted house, a nice smooth roadway and beautifully kept and planted lawn. Put those two farms up for sale and, though there may be the same number of acres and just as good land on one as on the other, the house with grass, trees and flowers will sell for more money for every acre than the other one will. I have seen instances of this.—W. F. Massey in Progressive Farmer.

*When a cold becomes settled in the system, it will take several days' treatment to cure it, and the best remedy to use is Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It will cure quicker than any other, and also leaves the system in a natural and healthy condition. Sold by W. W. Sibert.

Thomas Hoffman died in Orangeburg as the result of a stroke of paralysis.

*Lame back comes on suddenly and is extremely painful. It is caused by rheumatism of the muscles. Quick relief is afforded by applying Chamberlain's Liniment. Sold by W. W. Sibert.

The Dun Mercantile Agency has opened an office in Greenville.

*Many school children suffer from constipation, which is often the cause of seeming stupidity at lessons. Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets are an ideal medicine to give a child, for they are mild and gentle in their effect, and will cure even chronic constipation. Sold by W. W. Sibert.

FOR SALE—Three nice gilts left, one pure bred Berkshire and two with trace of Poland China. Two or three cows will be fresh in milk later. Several undressed sleep skins at a dollar each; about that value in wool on them. After washing, fine for bottom of buggy or bedstade. Goat skins 50c. E. W. Dabbs, Mayesville, S. C., Nov. 4th.

FOR SALE—The McLeod place, 856 1-2 acres, fine Wateree River swamp, cotton and grain land, near R. R. depot. J. R. Sumter, Sumter, S. C. 10-12-11

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If you do pay us a visit to our recently enlarged house furnishing department, which occupies a good space on our second floor. Here you will find a complete stock of Mattings, Rugs, Art Squares, Linoleum, Lace Curtains, Portiers, Window Shades, Couch Covers, Door Mats, Etc., all at money saving prices. When you have any of the above items to buy, give us a call and let us show you. We will make the time you take with us pay you well.

Mattings From the best that's made down to 10c per yard.	Art Squares That sell for \$25 down to a Square for \$3.50.	Rugs Of all kinds. The best and the cheapest. Priced as low as 95 cents.	Lace Curtains A line to bewilder you. As cheap as 50 cents pair.
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Mats—Door Wire, Rubber and Creole. Curtain Poles and Rods.

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