

The Watchman and Southron.
Published Wednesday and Saturday.
—BY—
OSTEEN PUBLISHING COMPANY.
SUMTER, S. C.
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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.

Weekly Weather Forecast.
Issued by the U. S. Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C., for the week beginning Wednesday, July 28, 1915.
For South Atlantic and East Gulf States: Generally fair weather and normal temperatures probably during the week, except that scattered showers will likely occur in Florida and along the south Atlantic coast.

The suggestion that military training be given in all the public schools of the United States for the purpose of laying the foundation for an efficient citizen soldiery that can be called upon to defend the country in time of need seems to have fired the imagination of the nation and there has been a chorus of approval by the newspapers of all sections. The idea is undoubtedly a good one and if put into operation will be of lasting benefit, physically, mentally and morally, to the youth of the country. If the whole country should adopt the plan, the nation will be doing exactly what the city of Sumter has been doing for more than fifteen years. It will be just another instance of a "Sumter Plan" becoming of nation wide acceptance. Fifteen or sixteen years ago Supt. Edmunds, of the City Schools decided to introduce military training as a regular part of the curriculum of the Boys' High School. Since that time every boy who has completed the high school course has had four years of military training under a competent instructor—a graduate of the Citadel, which ranks as a military school next to West Point. The plan works well in Sumter, the military training, with the daily drill in the manual of arms, company and battalion formation and evolution having proven popular with the boys, instead of being regarded by them as a hardship, as was predicted by many when the plan was first inaugurated. The young men who have received this training in the Sumter schools during the past fifteen years would require little additional training for active service in an army of defense. If all the schools of the country had been doing similar work during the same period of time it would be an easy matter to raise an emergency army of three or four million men between the ages of eighteen and thirty-three that could be quickly converted into an efficient fighting machine. The public schools of the country could be made the training school for a great and unconquerable army of defense, while West Point and the military schools of the various States—such as the Citadel of this State and the Virginia Military Institute—could furnish the officers with the necessary technical training.

Not within our recollection has there been such a running up and down the State of would-be statesmen big and little, on speech-making expeditions as there has been this summer. Everywhere and every time a little crowd could be induced to gather in a grove or in a hall an orator with a message has been on hand to shoot hot air into them and to expatiate on what a great friend of the people the orator is and expects to be. The orators have been various and numerous, and their messages peculiar and variegated. The dear people have been presumed to be oblivious to any suggestion that the orators were animated by any motive other than a fervent desire to carry a message of light and cheer to the benighted masses. That is what the orators imagine, but as a matter of fact the people are wise to the game. They know that these self-elected evangelists are office seekers, making an off-year campaign. The orators think that every time they deliver a commencement address at the closing exercises of a one-teacher school or tell a farmers' meeting, composed of half a dozen absentee landlords how to make their lands blossom like the rose by planting legumes and practicing rotation, they have subtly laid wires that will pull them into fat offices next year. But the public knows what the orators are after as well as they do themselves, and many of the

supposedly innocently ignorant folks, who are being fed on political slops at commencements and picnics, are laughing in their sleeves, at the antics of the off-year politicians. Make a list of the leading citizens and favorite sons who have made the spring and summer hideous by their overproduction of canned wisdom and farmers' bulletin eloquence and you will have a census of the fellows who will be trying to save the State and nation next year by getting elected to office. These prominent citizens would not be neglecting their business, if they have any, and paying good money for railroad fare, unless they believed, or, at the least hoped, there would be a substantial come-back for the bread cast upon the waters. All this stir among the prospective candidates presages a big field and a hot campaign next year.

The destruction of the American steamer Leelanaw off the coast of Scotland by a German submarine cannot reasonably be construed as a deliberately unfriendly act on the part of the German government. The ship was caught carrying a cargo of contraband to an enemy and it was sunk by the Germans, after giving the crew ample time to leave the ship. Under the terms of the treaty between this country and Germany the latter country may be held liable for an indemnity equivalent to the value of the ship, but there is nothing in the incident to create a frenzy of excitement. The owners of the Leelanaw gambled on getting through with a cargo of contraband and lost—that is all there is to it.

The blind tigers of Charleston have not been put out of business by the activities of the raiding squads of city police and dispensary constables under the direction of Sheriff Martin, but they have been and are continuing to be seriously annoyed and their profits materially reduced, according to their own testimony. Visitors to Charleston nearly all bring back reports that the blind tigers are bitterly angry with Gov. Manning and are scheming and planning his defeat next year. They are down on all sincere advocates of the enforcement of law, and the man who receives the support of the blind tiger element and its sympathizers will be marked as a friend of criminals and law breakers. In connection with the report that transient visitors to Charleston bring back up-State one is led to marvel that so many good law-abiding citizens embrace the opportunity, when in Charleston, to make a personal investigation of blind tiger conditions and contribute to the prosperity of the law breakers.

The banks have won the first round in the fight with the tax commission, Judge Watts having rendered a decision that the commission has no authority to fix or equalize the assessments of banks, State or national. The banks and bankers will make a mistake if they celebrate their victory prematurely, for it is as certain as anything could be that the fight is just beginning. There is an important principle involved in this fight, and greater general interest has not been evinced in the litigation heretofore simply because the rank and file of the ordinary taxpayers have not been informed concerning the merits of the case and do not know the issues at stake. Brought down to the simplest terms the legal fight between the tax commission and the banks amounts to this: The tax commission was created to prevent tax dodging by the banks, and the banks are fighting the commission to escape payment of taxes that they justly should pay. It was not the object of the tax commission law to force the banks to pay more than their just share of taxes, or to require them to pay more than other property owners pay. The real purpose of the law creating the tax commission was to equalize the assessments of the banks and to require them to pay their just share of taxes. It is authoritatively stated that there are glaring inequalities in the assessments of some banks as compared with the assessments of other banks—some having made returns on the basis of 20 per cent. of their capital stock, while others make returns on a basis of sixty per cent; some banks make returns on a percentage of their capital stock alone, while others make returns on a percentage of their combined capital and surplus. The banks that are fighting the tax commission object to investigation and the equalization of their assessments. They object to their assessments being fixed by a State commission composed of experts who are independent and cannot be influenced or over-awed by local influences; they much prefer making their own assessments with no one to supervise, criticize or equalize save a complaisant township board of assessors or county board of equalization. Tax dodging under these conditions, as we all know to our profit, is both easy and semi-respectable. The banks are no greater offenders as tax dodgers than the average individual, but that does not excuse their evasion

of the law, and the tax commission is an instrument designed to equalize taxes and in time to make all property owners pay on the same basis. The public mind is setting toward honest tax returns and fair assessments; and while the technicalities of the law may defeat the object of the tax commission law for a time it is impossible to block a reform that is fundamentally sound, honest and greatly needed.

Everything that Mr. Van Deventer says in his letter, printed today, in reference to the shade trees of Sumter, the lack of care given them and the needless destruction of trees that have been fifty years in attaining their present size and beauty is all entirely true. The Daily Item harped on this subject for years until we came to the conclusion that we had fatigued public intelligence or failed to arouse the interest of the community. The ladies of the Civic League have, also expended a great deal of time and effort in the attempt to arouse interest in the care and preservation of the trees. They have spent considerable money in having a few trees treated by Davy tree experts as an object lesson to show that it is not necessary to cut down every tree that has begun to decay. The trees thus treated are now in good condition and will probably live and flourish for many years. But the hope of arousing a live public interest leading to the systematic care of the trees has been futile. The people are generally indifferent for they have the ingrained belief that nothing is so cheap and common as a tree. We hope Mr. Van Deventer will succeed in creating a sentiment in favor of saving our trees and that he will receive immediate and substantial support.



To the good people of Sumter: I am a campaign manager, trying to nominate every individual, with whom I come in contact, as a candidate for eternal life. I offer my assistance to the end of the race. And, I will endeavor to help each one to make a "home run," to the Throne of God, without a "slide."
My wife and I are coming to Sumter, as "Servants of the Most High God," and the Churches of Christ, in both Sumter and Orangeburg. Also we are to be citizens, and as such we are not only greatly interested in religious business and church affairs, but also in the temporal as well as the spiritual welfare, of the entire town, regardless of church affiliations. We desire to cooperate with every good work, and with all good people in making better citizens, and exalting Christ, and lifting the entire population to the highest standard of living in Him. To this end we desire the acquaintance, fellowship and cooperation of all the good people of Sumter.
My themes for Sunday, August 1st, will be as follows:
11 A. M.—"How to make a church go and grow." Text Ex. 14:15.
7:30 P. M.—"Vision." Prov. 29:18.
Very truly yours in the service of our Master,
M. B. MILLER.

TAX COMMISSION MANDAMUSED.
Ordered to Return to Auditor the Assessment and Equalization of Greenwood Bank.
Columbia, July 29.—U. R. Brooks, clerk of the State supreme court, this morning served a writ of mandamus on the members of the State tax commission and the auditor of Greenwood county to return to the auditor of Greenwood county the assessment and equalization of the property of the National Loan and Exchange Bank of Greenwood. The mandamus was issued on order of Associate Justice Watts. The members of the tax commission and the auditor of Greenwood county are certified to make execution to the writ of mandamus to the supreme court to be held on the fourth Tuesday in November next.
Lenoir's Flour Mill.
Lenoir's modern roller flour mill, near Hagood, is now practically complete and is being tested out. It will be in operation, without fail, Monday, August 2nd.—Adv't.

LAW GOVERNING ELECTION.

Steering Committee of Anti-Saloon League Issues Statement to Voters.

Statement as to law covering coming prohibition election.
This election will be held on Tuesday, September 14th. There will be two ballots as provided by the statute, one "For the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors and beverages in South Carolina"; the other "Against the sale and manufacture of alcoholic liquors and beverages in South Carolina."
There will be but one ballot box. If the result of the election is against the manufacture and sale, the county dispensary will be closed after the 31st of December, and the sale of alcoholic liquors and beverages within the State will be unlawful after that time.

This law has nothing to do with the gallon-a-month law, regulating the importation of liquors from outside the State.

All persons who are eligible and desire to vote in this election must have a registration certificate and receipt showing the payment of all his taxes for the year 1915.

To vote in this election a person must have registered more than thirty days before the election, unless he becomes of age within the thirty days. The only remaining opportunity to register for this election will be in August. The books will be open for at least three days in August, in every county and at such places in every county as the Board of Registration may designate, by two weeks public notice. In those counties having 50,000 people or more, the books will be open for the first fifteen days of August.

It is earnestly desired by those favoring prohibition, that the election shall be a full expression of the sentiment of the people, both for and against prohibition. And for that reason, all persons who are eligible to do so, are urged to register and vote.

(Signed) D. W. Robinson, Secretary Steering Committee.

J. L. Harley, Supt. Anti-Saloon League.

Georgetown Man in Chicago Wreck.

Mr. Henry G. Gibbs, a son of our good friend Mr. John G. Gibbs, was in the horrible accident in Chicago on Saturday of last week, when over 1,000 people lost their lives by the overturning of an excursion steamer. Naturally Mr. Gibbs was uneasy as to the fate of his son and after several efforts and some delay he received a telegram from the young man saying he was safe and unhurt. It is needless to say this was a source of great joy to the anxious father and we all join with him in his rejoicing.—Georgetown Times.

SUMTER COTTON MARKET.

Corrected Daily by Ernest Field, Cotton Buyer.

Sumter, S. C., July 29.
Good Middling, 8 3-4.
Strict Middling, 8 5-9.
Middling, 8 1-2.
Strict Low Middling 8.
Low Middling 7 1-2.
Staple Cotton, Nominal.

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