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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.

POSTMASTERS AND POLITICS.

Many a citizen must have rubbed his eyes on reading the announcement that a Republican has been appointed postmaster of Boston. In the old days the office would have gone, as a matter of course, to some "deserving Democrat"—or if in a Republican administration, to a "deserving Republican." The qualifications, in either case, would have been primarily political.

And behold another wonder! In this case the successful candidate was chosen from a list of 20 or more according to a scale of merit which allowed 80 per cent for business experience and 20 per cent for education. Anyone can figure out for himself how much percentage was left for political influence of any character.

This Boston appointment is not, by any means, the first of the kind made since civil service rules were applied to first class postmasterhips, but it happens to be the most conspicuous. There is no question of the fitness of the new Boston postmaster, George J. Crocker. Besides passing the best examination for the place, he has the record of having served acceptably as city treasurer of Boston.

The new method of selection is obviously better for the postoffice department, and should prove better in the long run for politics. It is one of the big steps toward putting American public service on a higher plane and thus getting into public office men equal in ability to those occupying corresponding places in private business.

TOO MANY PEOPLE.

For generations scientific men have been "viewing with alarm" the growing population of the world. Every little while along comes some learned statistician like Malthus, and figures that the earth cannot sustain many more people, and if they continue reproducing as usual their numbers must inevitably be kept down by wars, disease or starvation. The latest alarmist is the statistician for the commonwealth of Australia. He says there were on the earth in 1914 about 1,649,000,000 people, that the big war killed off very few of them, and the population is increasing right along now at the rate of 1-1.6 per cent a year, and at this rate there will soon be "a severe strain on the resources of nature."

Well, modern man is always pushing beyond the economist's "edge of cultivation" and making a living out of land that nobody before ever thought worth cultivating. And there are the vast tropics, as yet hardly touched agriculturally. Land chemistry is working wonders. We are getting fertilizer out of the air. From air and water alone we may yet produce food. The interior heart of the earth will be tapped for fuel. Sir Oliver Lodge expects that man sooner or later will get his energy direct from the ether of space, or from atoms of matter—and there are thousands of horsepower bottled up in a cubic inch of anything.

Who can set a limit to the "resources of nature" or to man's ability to turn them to his purpose? From all we can learn, these 649,000,000 people have more food and comforts of life than any generation of their ancestors had since Adam left Paradise. It is the most sparsely settled countries that are poorest. The more people multiply, the more they multiply the necessities of life and the more goods they have apiece. Too many people gather in cities sometimes, and so have difficulty in getting a living; but that is merely a fault of local distribution.

In this census year we need not add to our present troubles and worry about the future of the human race. When there are 1,000,000,000 people in North America, they will probably all be better off than they are now.

Kansas City, Jan. 10.—General Pershing was the guest of the city today. He was presented with a gold-hilted sabre.

Washington, Jan. 12.—The formal call for the first meeting of the League of Nations council, which will be held in Paris Friday, will be issued by President Wilson probably today, the State department announced.

HOUSE REJECTS BERGER AGAIN

Wisconsin Socialists and Alien Enemy Denied Seat in Congress By Majority Vote

ONLY SIX MEMBERS VOTED TO SEAT HIM

Action of House Based on Fact That Berger Has Been Convicted of Aiding Enemy

Washington, Jan. 10.—Victor Berger, Milwaukee socialist, reelected from the Fifth Wisconsin congressional district after he had been refused membership in house, because he gave aid and comfort to the enemy, was denied his seat again today by a vote of 288 to 6.

The house acted in a little more than an hour after Berger had presented himself to be sworn in. Chairman Dallinger of the elections committee which held Berger ineligible the first time, presented a resolution barring Berger and reviewed the reasons why Berger was excluded at the special session. Representatives Mann, Republican, of Illinois, Voigt, Republican, of Wisconsin, and Sherwood, Democrat, of Ohio, spoke in support of Berger's right to a seat. "This is a representative form of government," Mr. Mann said, "and this we must maintain inviolate if the people desire it. Berger was elected by the people of Wisconsin. They have a right to be represented."

Request for a hearing on Henry H. Bodenstad's right to the seat denied Berger has been made before Chairman Dallinger. Bodenstad, a Republican, was defeated by Berger by a majority of 4,086 votes in the special election. The committee previously held Joseph P. Carney, Berger's opponent in the first election, to be ineligible. Chairman Dallinger said today that at the time of his first election Berger was only under indictment under the espionage act, but that he had been convicted before the second election. This, he added, would strengthen Bodenstad's case.

Those voting to seat Berger were: Mann, Harrell, Republican, of Oklahoma, Griffin, Democrat, of New York, Sherwood, Democrat, of Ohio and Sisson, Democrat, of Mississippi. Representative Sabath, Republican, of Illinois voted present.

Berger declared in a statement after the vote that the house action was "one of the worst attacks on the representative form of government ever witnessed in this country."

"It is really a denial of the right of people to elect the citizen of their choice," he said.

Speaking to his resolution, Chairman Dallinger said Berger was excluded the first time "not because of his so-called radical views, not because he is a Socialist, but because he is ineligible to membership under provisions of the constitution."

"This will disqualify him permanently," he declared. "The people of Wisconsin may reelect him, and there are some who contend that if the people want him in congress he is entitled to a seat, but a man excluded as Berger has been can never be eligible to membership."

Representative Voigt, who was the only member to vote to seat Berger the first time, spoke in favor of seating him today.

"I am more firmly convinced than ever," he said, "that Berger is entitled to a seat. If he is a traitor, then there are 25,000 traitors in the Fifth Wisconsin district."

"There are," a score of members shouted.

"Then there are traitors in your district," Voigt retorted.

"Not at all," came from various members.

Milwaukee, Jan. 10.—The Socialist committee of the First Wisconsin congressional district within a half hour after receiving the news that Victor Berger had been excluded from congress a second time renominated him. The statement was made that he would be the candidate of the party at a special election to be demanded from the governor.

"We will keep on nominating Berger until Hades freezes over if that un-American aggregation called congress continues to exclude him," declared a statement issued by the committee.

"We want every person in this country to understand that the voters of Fifth Wisconsin district know exactly whom they want as their representative in congress, and we do not propose to let Gillett and his bunch of Wall street fawners dictate to us on the subject."

"Berger is our congressman and the action of congress in unseating him a second time only starts the real fight that will not end until every one of the reactionaries who voted in today's disgraceful proceedings have repaid by the ballot to the oblivion they so richly deserve."

Pordeaux, Jan. 9.—Construction work on the giant Lafayette radio station being built here by the American navy is finished and installation of the electrical equipment will be completed next spring, it is announced. This will be the largest and most powerful wireless station in the world, according to naval authorities.

Washington, Jan. 12.—President Wilson today summoned Secretary Glass to the White House for a conference at which it is understood the successor to Mr. Glass will be discussed. The appointment is expected soon so Mr. Glass can take his seat in the senate, succeeding the late Senator Martin of Virginia.

Chamber of Commerce Notes.

The importance of educating and organizing the colored farmers of Sumter county regarding preparation for the boll weevil, as suggested in this paper some days ago by the secretary of the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce appears to have met with approval among many citizens of this county.

An influential and large white farmer talked this matter over with Secretary Reardon this week, and said he intends to take this matter up at the big boll weevil conference in Sumter next Thursday, January 15th, at 11 a. m. at the county court room. The idea is to hold community meetings of colored farmers in every township of the county to be addressed by leading white men and by colored leaders also, stressing the importance of the colored farmers reducing their cotton acreage to suit weevil conditions, planting of peanuts, tobacco, potatoes, velvet beans, corn, raising of sufficient hogs, poultry, etc.

White men are doing a lot of conferring and some very important weevil preparation work among themselves, Clemson College experts and county demonstration agents all over the weevil infested counties, bankers, associations, automobile associations, Chambers of Commerce and other business organizations are working among the white farmers in good style. But with the exception of the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce which is working among the negroes to assist them to get ready as well as working among the whites, there has been practically nothing done to get the negroes organized, educated, and pulling together with their white fellow citizens in the boll weevil propaganda of the State. Ten or fifteen mass meetings, one or two a day in each township or about twenty meetings in all could be pulled off easily within a week's time among negro farmers. Bankers, merchants, farmers, from city or town or from both places, could divide up the time, each speaker addressing one meeting, and in this way much valuable information could be spread and much valuable assistance rendered the negroes. The Clemson College Farm Extension service holding meetings or boll weevil conferences in thirty or more weevil infested counties at this time should pay a great deal of attention to colored farmers who are in the majority in cotton infested territory.

If the negro share croppers and tenants are left bankrupt by too much boll weevil they will have to leave this country or section of country to make a living. The importance of providing for future agricultural labor is of too much importance to allow boll weevil devastation to be a serious and important part of our agricultural, labor, and commercial interests by not cooperating with the negroes who are in a big majority in this section of South Carolina.

The suggestion about community meetings and organizing the negroes should be fully discussed at and provide for at boll weevil conference in Sumter and in other weevil infested counties.

It should be made a separate and distinct part of the program and not overlooked. The negroes need help, they are asking for it and they will take advice.

No farmer need worry about the market for peanuts. Peanuts are now too important a food product to go unpurchased. Wherever there are peanuts for sale there will be plenty of buyers as the demand will furnish the markets if we just have the peanuts to sell in this county.

It has been suggested that peanut harvesting machinery be supplied under the cooperative plan by ginners owning the harvesting machinery to rent out in their respective sections.

The Sumter County Chamber of Commerce is looking into this proposition and has requested a Sumter machinery house to take this matter up with the Sumter county ginners without delay. If this machinery house does go at this matter in the right spirit there will be township farmers interested should see the Chamber of Commerce manager in order that it might be possible to find out how the idea takes among peanut growers of this county.

It is hoped that every mercantile establishment, bank, manufacturing establishment, and every business and professional place in Sumter will be represented at the boll weevil conference here on next Thursday. Likewise every farmer should be on hand. Let the farmers and the business men, bankers, and professional men get together for a general understanding next Thursday.

Third Lyceum Number—Three Artists in Concert.

The patrons of the Sumter Lyceum Course will have the opportunity of hearing in the Trineria Concert Company, a singer of international reputation in the person of Signor Bonanno. This artist has sung at the Paris Opera and at a special concert in honor of President Poincaré. It may be of interest to know that this gentleman is a member of the nobility, with the title of Duke Misimieri. But he doesn't depend upon his title for his fame as a singer. He has a rich baritone voice and is said to sing with a great deal of expression and temperament. He can sing in English, as well as in several other languages.

Miss Simpson was for several years prima donna with the English Opera Company, and has appeared in concerts in America.

The pianist, Gwendolyn Bayless, is also a reader. She is a graduate of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Altogether, this company will give one of the most artistic recitals ever rendered in Sumter. The members of the Lyceum Association here are justified in looking forward to a treat, and the committee feels sure that this number will maintain the high standard set by the two preceding numbers of this course.

General admission to those who are not holders of season tickets, will be \$1.00. This recital will be given at the Girl's High School at 8:30 o'clock, Tuesday evening, January 13.

ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE DRIVE

Big Campaign Started to Raise \$2,250,000 in the South— Bryan to Speak

Atlanta, Jan. 12.—United States Senator Wm. J. Harris, of Georgia, declared that the national prohibition law will not enforce itself and that it requires the moral and financial support of the people, in a letter received today by Chief Justice Nash R. Enoles, of the Georgia court of appeals. Senator Harris' statement was made in a letter endorsing the anti-saloon league campaign for funds in Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, South Carolina and Florida, which begins Thursday, the day before the 18th amendment goes into effect. Judge Broyles is chairman for Georgia.

Senator Harris says: "The eighth amendment brings constitutional prohibition to the United States, and I am certain it marks the beginning of the greatest era for the health, prosperity, increased earning capacity of our laboring people and success of the nation. Prohibition is the law and every law-abiding citizen should assist and encourage its enforcement. This law, as well as others, will not enforce itself automatically. It requires the moral and financial support of the sane and constructive people of the country."

Wm. Jennings Bryan is an honorary chairman of the campaign and will make a speaking tour in its interest.

The quotas for the five Southeastern States total \$2,250,000. The national quota is \$30,000,000 which is to be used for home law enforcement, to Americanize the foreigner and to ef-

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fect a dry world by 1930. Col. W. McDonald Lee, of Richmond, is national field director and E. Y. Clark, of Atlanta, Southern campaign director.

Strange Malady in Oklahoma.

Oklahoma City, Jan. 11.—Five hundred of the 2,000 inhabitants of Shiatook, Tulsa county, are seriously ill of a strange malady which baffles physicians, according to reports to the State health department.

Several deaths have occurred. In the opinion of one of the physicians here the disease is a mild form of cholera. It begins with an attack of dysentery and causes a losing of weight, according to the report. The State health department will send three physicians and ten inspectors there tomorrow.

Washington, Jan. 12.—The supreme Court today denied permission for the New Jersey Retail Liquor Dealers' Association to bring original proceedings in the Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the prohibition amendment and enjoin its enforcement in New Jersey. The court held it had no jurisdiction in the matter.

INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE MEETS

Country's Industrial Situation to Be Considered

Washington, Jan. 12.—President Wilson's second industrial conference reassembled today after several weeks recess, to consider suggestions and proposals for the stabilization of the nation's industrial situation.

Big Cotton Sale.

Mr. F. C. Thomas on Monday disposed of his cotton holdings amounting to 508 bales. This big sale was made through Mr. S. J. Smith of this place, who represents McCabe & Co., the Charleston exporters. The cotton was sold as follows: Good middling 41c; middling 40c. This is the largest deal that has been pulled through here this season.—Manning Times.

FORD—New, for sale, with starter, demountable rims, large steering wheel, extra radius rods and other extras. See Tom Teague, Mechanic, Anchor Motor Co.

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