

THE UNION TIMES

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
BY THE
UNION TIMES COMPANY
BACHELOR STREET, OPPOSITE
BELL PHONE NO. 1.

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Registered at the Postoffice in Union, S. C., as second-class mail matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
One year\$1.00
Six months 50
Three months 25

ADVERTISEMENTS:
One square, first insertion\$1.00
Every subsequent insertion 50
Contracts for three months or longer will be made at reduced rates.
Locals inserted at 8-13 cents a line.
Rejected manuscripts will not be returned. Obituaries and tributes of respect will be charged for at half rates.

UNION, S. C., MARCH 1, 1907.

Engineer Stephens has given up the Panama canal undertaking. That big ditch seems to put a damper on the energy of the most ardent contractors.

Tax levy in the county of Union—Ordinary 3½ mills, road tax 1 mill, railroad bonds 1 mill, debt 1 mill, permanent road improvement 1 mill, aid Confederate veterans 1-4 mill.

One hundred and fifty prominent citizens of Greenville have signed a petition to have constables reappointed in that county. That's about the thing to do, and Union county is no exception.

Although one condemns the baseness of the stealing of bonds from the State treasurer's office by Daniel Zimmerman, it is yet a matter to arouse the pity of hearts that are sympathetic. The age of the man and his high standing combine to make one sad to see his downfall.

We feel sure that there will have to be an appeal to Governor Ansel to appoint special constables to enforce the law against blind tigers in Union. It is a notorious fact that whiskey is being brought into Union at a rate of one keg after keg of whiskey has been dumped from the night passenger train after it pulls out of Union. Some of this whiskey has been captured by our policemen. But, as one of the policemen says, there are vastly larger numbers of "dents in the ground than packages captured." Let a sharp lookout be kept by the officers of the law. If they are unable to cope with the situation, then let us have the special constables appointed. The good citizens of Union do not propose to sit idly by and be run over rough shod by the despicable lawbreakers.

ENORMOUS FIRE LOSS.

The statisticians of the fire insurance companies tell us that the losses in the United States by fire last year reached the enormous total of more than five hundred million dollars. How much of this was protected by insurance against loss by fire we are not told, but the figures given are sufficient to cause interest, and to provoke serious investigation of the cause of so many conflagrations. It is true the immense total reached last year, which, by the way, was never before equaled in any single twelve months, was greatly augmented by the San Francisco earthquake fires; but after deducting that, the losses were heavy. Another fact which is pointed out is that the International Society of Building Inspectors declare nine-tenths of the national fire losses are preventable. The South Carolina legislature several years ago made it incumbent on the comptroller general to investigate all fires where there was sufficient evidence of incendiaryism to warrant such investigation, but we do not recall a single instance where any such case resulted in detection of a criminal. For several years there has been a demand for a law in this State prohibiting the manufacture or sale of any but safety matches, to the end that many accidental fires might be prevented; but so far the legislature has not taken favorable action on the proposition. The time is not far distant, however, when the general assembly will enact such legislation.

STATE AID FOR HIGH SCHOOLS.

This paper has always stood for State aid for high schools, and the last legislature passed a law appropriating \$50,000 for that purpose. Years ago the churches saw the hiatus between the common, or public, school and the college, and several denomina-

tional high schools were established by religious bodies. These have done good work and have encouraged the establishment of others. From the nature of the case the denominational high school has not been able to supply the demand, and state aid was right and proper. But too many of us opposed to the expenditure of the money needed. However, the bill introduced by Senator Raysor, appropriating \$50,000 for high schools was enacted last month by the general assembly, and after next July the fund will be available to such counties or school districts as care to establish such high schools. We are sorry the law limits the appropriation to towns of less than one thousand inhabitants; but we trust this opportunity is but a beginning of larger things for the future, for there should be a high school in every county in the State; and if larger towns than those referred to in the act will aid in the establishment and maintenance of such school we can see no good reason for denying them the privilege.

SENATOR SMOOT VINDICATED.

Four years ago the State of Utah sent to the United States senate a Mr. Reed Smoot, to represent that State in the highest legislative body in this country. Mr. Smoot was a member of the Mormon church, and held a high official position in that organization, being one of the "twelve apostles." Immediately upon his election, and before his term in the senate began, petitions were filed with the senate praying that body not to seat him, on the ground that he was a Mormon, and the Mormon church permitted the practice, openly or secretly, of polygamy. The senate addressed a committee to investigate the charges against him, with a view to expelling him if he was found to be disqualified or morally unfit to be a senator. Now, after four years' investigation, the senate has voted to receive the report of its committee that Senator Smoot has done nothing that unfits or disqualifies him.

There can be no doubt that the Mormon church is very "rank" in morals, but there seems to have been no evidence that Mr. Smoot was unchaste in speech or conduct. The Mormon church advocated polygamy until the national law put the practice under the ban. But the national law makes no attempt to check the divorce Smoot never married but once. Other senators have been corrupt in life and practice and have been permitted to retain their seats unmolested, and there is now one, Burton, of Kansas, who is serving a term in prison, and he was permitted to resign after his conviction, when it was known that he was a criminal, and the highest court in the land had so declared. Yet there was no hysterical clamor for his expulsion. The investigation of the Smoot case really amounted to persecution, yet when the evidence was all in Mr. Smoot's enemies as well as his friends had given him a record for chastity and morality that perhaps many of his fellow senators could not secure.

We, of course, have no sympathy with the corrupt teachings of the Mormon church, nor can we understand how self-respecting men can endorse that faith, but neither have we sympathy with the crowd who wink at the immoral lives of their own senators and who themselves have divorced wives or husbands or confidential friends, and who hold up their hands in holy horror because, forsooth, a Mormon, who is a gentleman, has been chosen to be a senator of the United States.

There is a story that a certain city's streets were kept clean by every man sweeping before his own door.

THE SOUTHERN'S RIGHT OF WAY.

The daily papers tell of a case of unusual interest that was tried in the Anderson court last week, to test the validity of a claim of the Southern railway that it owns a 200-foot strip of land from its station in Columbia to its station in Greenville, and from Belton to Anderson, a total distance of more than one hundred and fifty miles. The suit really was for a narrow strip of land in the town of Williamston, owned by Mr. James P. Gossett, and worth only \$25 or \$30, but the attorneys for the railway company told the jury that it was a "test case," implying that if the road won this suit it would then demand from the occupants of the land along its line the full 200-foot strip all the way from Columbia to Greenville and Anderson. The railway company relied upon the terms of its charter, granted in 1845, which stipulated that the road could condemn a 200-foot strip for the road bed and other railroad purposes. This charter was a little later so amended that it was permitted the railway company to secure only so much land as was actually needed for its purposes

There seems to have been no doubt of the continued peaceful, unbroken occupancy of the land in question in the case by Mr. Gossett and his predecessors for a period of more than sixty years,—indeed there was no evidence offered in the trial that the way had ever secured or attempted to occupy the land in question.

The company's attorneys relied solely upon the original charter, and did not claim that the company ever bought the land, but that it was given to them by charter, and that it belonged to the railway company by virtue of that charter whensoever the company desired occupy it. Mr. Gossett claimed that if the land had been so given he was now entitled to it by reason of a verse possession under the common law. But the jury brought in a verdict in favor of the railway company. Mr. Gossett has appealed the case to the supreme court.

If the verdict of the Anderson jury is sustained by the supreme court it will work great hardship upon many people whose property rights are involved by the decision. We have no doubt that the United States and of this State provide that no person's property could be taken away from him without just compensation therefor. In the railway company is attempting to take and convert to its own uses the property without even claiming even to have rendered any compensation for it. Along the lines of the Southern Between Greenville and Columbia and Anderson, particularly in the towns, there have been built many substantial business houses and residences, cotton mills, etc., upon the land claimed by the railroad company. The decision in the Gossett case is that the railway company may at any time dispossess any or all of the occupants and alleged owners of this property and even convert such houses and lands to railway purposes.

Along the line of the Southern the land now claimed by the railway has been occupied by present owners and their predecessors undisturbed for a period antedating the charter of the old Columbia and Greenville railroad, the forerunner of the Southern, and for the courts to give this property to the corporation now claiming it, unless there has been some price paid for it, will be a great hardship upon the present holders. It may be right in law, but it is wrong in ethics and morals.



State of South Carolina,
Executive Chamber.

Whereas information has been received at this department that on the morning of the 25th day of January A. D. 1907, the barn of Mr. J. F. Almon, near Jonesville, in the county of Union, was burned, and there being reason to believe that the burning was an act of incendiaryism,

Now, therefore, I, M. F. Ansel, governor of the State of South Carolina, in order that justice may be done and the majesty of the law vindicated, do hereby offer a reward of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars for the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons who committed said act of incendiaryism.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, at Columbia, this 25th day of February A. D. 1907, and in the 131st year of the independence of the United States of America.

M. F. Ansel.

By the Governor:
R. M. McCown,
Secretary of State.

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of course I understand all about ethics, etc., but I do not care who knows I used Gowan's Pneumonia Cure because it saved my life. I keep a bottle always in the house and one in my grip. If the baby gets a little cold we head off the croup and I know that it will cure Pneumonia. There is no use to lie down and die when a remedy is in reach—25 cents for trial size.

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Many Orphans and Little Bread.

There are in the Thornwell orphanage, located at Clinton, S. C., 240 orphan boys and girls, in process of securing an education. These boys and girls are of all ages from six years of age up to 17 or 18. The older pupils by their zealous labors help to support and care for the young, putting in each day four to six hours of steady work in the shops and farms and kitchen and about the same time daily on their books. In this way the cost of caring for the whole family is lessened by many thousands of dollars. But the great majority of the children are very small, only a care instead of a help and must be aided in every way. The support of these children rests upon good men and women who love the orphans and freely aid them. Just at present there is special need of assistance and every gift, be it of provisions or of money, will be promptly acknowledged. Every denomination in the State is represented among the children, but the institution is under Presbyterian control. All gifts should be sent to Rev. Wm. P. Jacobs, Clinton, S. C. Provisions, simply to Thornwell Orphanage, Clinton, S. C. It is suggested that in each community in the State some one undertake to raise for the aid of these children.

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