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ABBEVILLE, S. C.

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THE POOR HOUSE.

The condition of the Abbeville County Almshouse, commonly called the Poor House, as revealed by report of the Board of Charities and Corrections, printed in another column of this issue, will not commend itself to the people of Abbeville County. It need hardly be said that there is no excuse for the conditions, and the authorities should lose no time in correcting them. It is true that only a small number of people are at the poor farm, and we do not now recall just what money the county appropriates for the support of the farm, and its inmates, but we believe the farm itself, in capable hands, will furnish enough income to support nineteen people in a decent manner, give them the necessities of life, furnish them with clean quarters, and clean beds on which to rest at night.

It is disgraceful in a civilized community that a board organized in the state to look after these matters should find the poor in Abbeville county sleeping on beds infested with vermin. The fact that the matter was called to the attention of the authorities many months ago, and that nothing has been done to correct the intolerable conditions prevailing there does not speak well for the present county management.

If the county authorities as now constituted cannot look after these poor people better than they seem to be doing, the legislature should pass an Act at this session appointing a County Board on Charitable Institutions, which might look after the affairs at the poor farm better than they have been looked after in the past.

It is squarely up to the Supervisor of Abbeville County and the Sub-Supervisors to say whether the people who unfortunately are forced to live at the poor house shall be further subjected to the present conditions. Will they be corrected?

THEIR PET HOBBIES.

If somebody were to compile a volume on the avocations of business men, it would be most interesting. For example, an obscure druggist in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is one of the world's greatest authorities on Arabic and possesses a library full of toms and manuscript unsurpassed anywhere. In the same city a merchant on a small scale has one of the most notable collections of portraits of Napoleon in the United States. It is understood that August Kohn, a business man of Columbia, and Ambrose E. Gonzales, publisher of The Columbia State, have remarkable collections of South Carolinians, or books and pamphlets relating to this State. Mr. Gonzales, by the way, is an authority on the Gullah dialect of low-country negroes and is contributing a most entertaining and edifying series of articles about it to The State. Harry L. Watson, editor of The Greenwood Index, is an authority on South Carolina historical lore and has a large library of rare volumes on the subject. The list could be multiplied indefinitely. Thoreau was a surveyor, Hawthorne a public official, Lanier a teacher, Simms a journalist, Bagby a doctor, and so on. Many men of great wealth, like the late J. Pierpont Morgan, spend millions on art collections.—The Greenville News.

RUNNING STRONG.

The reports from Columbia as published in certain newspapers and repeated by visitors to the capital city bring the refreshing news that the race for Governor will be between Cooper and Bethea (Andrew Jackson) and that Bethea is "running strong" and winning more ground than any of the candidates in the last few months.

We opine now that if the man responsible for these kind words were hunted down and shot "Patrick Henry of the Pee Dee" would not be able to fumigate the state with his peculiar brand of oratorical vapor during the coming summer months.

A petition asking the merchants of Abbeville to close every day except Saturdays at 6 o'clock, to save fuel, was signed by every business house in the city except one. Why may not Newberry do likewise?—Newberry Observer.

Abbeville Press and Banner: "Our son, Bill, tells us that he does not care if Mr. Hoover does put a stop order on soap and water." Bill's position has general endorsement by the boys of the country.—Greenville News.

The Abbeville Press and Banner is informed that the price of wood is \$12 a cord in Abbeville and suggests that the price should be limited by the fuel controller—just as the price of coal is limited. If that is not a fair suggestion, what would be? Every seller of wood in South Carolina is directly or indirectly benefited by the limitation on the price of coal.—The State.

A TRUE BILL.

M. O. McCaslan, Foreman.

The Spartanburg Journal thinks that Code Commissioner Rion McKissick resigned rather than write "bone dry" prohibition law into the code.

An Important Point.
(Columbia Record)

Lieut. Gov. Andrew Bethea in his speech yesterday said that the "home fires" ought to be kept burning, but he didn't say where the coal was coming from to keep them burning.

TO THE FARMERS OF
ABBEVILLE COUNTY.

Notice has been given you through the press that you are to make application for Nitrate of Soda thru the County Agent, R. H. Moseley, Lowndesville, S. C., A. D. Kennedy, Due West, Dr. J. A. Anderson, Antreville, H. W. Lawson, Calhoun Falls, and W. F. Nickles, Abbeville. These were all supplied with application blanks and all you have to do is to go to one of the above named gentlemen and fill out your application. Remember that you must make your application for the soda on or before Feb. 4, 1918. I will be in Abbeville on Saturdays to take applications. Be sure and fill your applications before Feb. 4th.

W. A. Rowell.

OPTIMISM AND BUSINESS PROSPERITY ESSENTIAL TO WINNING THE WAR

This nation must throb with activity and prosperity, or else it cannot absorb the bond issues which must be oated as long as the war lasts. Taxation must be so adjusted as to encourage business rather than to hamper and harass it. It is incumbent upon Congress and the Administration to regard business prosperity, big business and little business, farmers, merchants, manufacturers, transportation interests, all as allies in the winning of the war. Every move made in Congress or by the Administration or elsewhere to restrict and hamper by unwise legislation or by unjustly laid taxes the broad prosperity of the country's business will necessarily restrict the people's ability to operate business profitably, and invest in new bonds.

Prosperity, prosperity and more prosperity, can alone enable us to meet our duty as a nation to produce and keep on producing more coal and iron and steel and ships, more cotton, more grain, more meat, and more of all the things which enter into the ability of the nation to wage

a vast and successful war, cutting out of course, every non-essential thing.

More business than usual, except of non-essentials more profit than usual, higher wages than usual, more expansion of transportation facilities than usual, must be the order of the day, and be superior to the "business as usual" thought as generally interpreted. This latter thought, indeed, in its broader sense, we think, never meant simply doing the same thing as before, but pressing business interests in a spirit of optimism as distinct from the pessimistic idea of stopping everything because of the war.

Optimism in business, founded on boundless faith in our country, in its marvelous Heaven-given resources, and in its ability under the guidance of the Almighty to win victory for the world optimism as to our army and navy, optimism, rampart optimism which though it sees the full magnitude of the task goes at it with an exchange, must hold full sway in all the wide ramifications of the nation's life.

We shall make mistakes, of course; what nation does not? We shall need courage to turn the incompetents and mistake-makers out of office but we shall have it. We shall have some heavy disasters; no war could be waged without them. We shall see some days dark enough to satisfy the gloomiest pictures of the rankest pessimist, but these are the hours when the optimist must show his faith in the nation, in its cause and in the God who guides us.

Let the nation take up its task with the realization of these facts not depressed by temporary difficulties or mistakes, but determined that those who make great mistakes must go, regardless of any political influence, and go straight forward to encourage business and prosperity, and make it the duty of the people to redouble their activities to work harder than ever on the farm, in the shop in the counting-room, in the pulpit, and everywhere else. Then let us as a people dedicate to the cause of the nation and of humanity every dollar that can be spared after the most rigid personal and family economy, for Liberty bonds, for Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. work, and all other activities which make for the winning of the war and the betterment of mankind.

Let the idle, rich or poor, man or woman, the waster of food or of time be counted as a slacker, a traitor, and be ostracized socially and in church and in business, by every honest-hearted man or woman.

If the Administration and Congress will fully recognize this situation, and be constructive in word and act, rather than destructive as in much legislation of the past, we shall have a people fully employed, bringing forth abounding prosperity, which alone can enable us to finance and fight the war adequately, and a well-rounded national life, free from the dangers of the socialistic and anarchistic class hatreds.

MRS. MATTIE WILSON.

Mrs. Mattie Wilson died Wednesday after an illness of only a week. She had inflammatory rheumatism, which affected her heart. Her death came as a great shock to her friends and relatives. The funeral was held at her home at Mrs. S. C. Seal's on North Main street yesterday morning at eleven o'clock. Rev. Mr. Hillhouse read a few passages in the bible and with a few appropriate words concluded the services at the cemetery. "Asleep in Jesus," and "Rock of Ages" were sung.

Mrs. Wilson was about forty-two years old and had spent her life in doing good. She was one of the few people who give a tenth of all she made to the church. Her God and her church were her principal thoughts. She was a member of the Presbyterian church at this place, having moved her membership here from Lebanon. The interment was at Bethia beside her husband who preceded her to the grave many years ago.

She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards of Cedar Springs, three brothers and three sisters and four children. Her two sons live near Abbeville and her two daughters are in Clinton.

The bereaved ones have the sympathy of a host of friends and relatives.

Pay up your subscription before your name is cut off.

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Abbeville, S. C.

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For the baby learning to walk, First step shoes.

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For big misses, English walking shoes with neolin and leather soles, tan or black boots in all leathers.

For men, Howard & Foster and Chas. A. Eaton's line of Men's Shoes in all shapes and leathers from the newest English to the Munson army last.

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Work shoes of all kinds at about any price you wish to pay.

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Right now we are offering some real values in shoes that are likely to be much higher later

Come in and let us show you while you can get a fit

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