

ESTABLISHED 1844
The Press and Banner
ABBEVILLE, S. C.

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AT WHOSE SUGGESTION? WHY?

Elsewhere in this issue we publish the text of the recent Act of the legislature taking the management of the water and light plants out of the hands of the City Council and turning the same over to Commissioners of Public Works. It has been stated that this amounts to little as a matter of law as the Commissioners of Public Works are under the control of the City Council, and can only act with their authority. This is a serious mistake in the interpretation of the law. We will discuss the absolute and arbitrary powers which pass to the Commissioners in another article to be printed Friday. We are now interested in knowing why the change was made, and who was responsible for it.

We asked in our last issue who fathered this amendment to the law as it stood. We believe that the daily papers stated that the amendment, at least in the Senate, was introduced by Senator Nickles. Now everybody knows that Senator Nickles has never had any close connection with the city council, he has never been a member of that body. He has not been the city attorney, and so far as we know his connection with the city government in Abbeville has not been such that, on his own account, he would have had a change made of this character without somebody asking that it be done.

On the other hand Dr. Neuffer has been a member of the city council. He served on the water and light committee if we mistake not, for one or two terms during which time the water and light plants made so much money that a city park was bought with the overplus and was named for the doctor, and it was filled with rabbits, owls and other wise-looking animals. He found no fault with the management of these enterprises by the city council as long as he was a member of the council and had them in charge, so far as we have heard. But, if there was any reason why there should have been a change in the law it would seem to us that he, rather than Senator Nickles, should have known of the reason and should therefore, have introduced the bill. Why did he not do so? Was there an effort to cover up somebody's tracks, and would the matter appear innocent looking if it came from the other side of the law-making body? We take it that Dr. Neuffer was in full accord with the Bill, as introduced and had full knowledge about it. Representative Moore tells us that he asked his colleague for information about this proposed law and the matter was explained by Dr. Neuffer, and that he (Mr. Moore) supposed it was wanted by the city. If Dr. Neuffer was in favor of the bill, why did he not introduce it in the house and give his reasons for so doing? Why did he not advocate the change when he was on the council, when it was his duty to get for the people of Abbeville the best management possible for these enterprises.

We have stated, and the records will prove that we speak the truth, that the water-works plant in Abbeville was not a success when managed by these Commissioners; that large sums of money were lost in its management by the Commissioners, while on the other hand, it is claimed by Mr. Anderson's friends in the city council that the plants have been a financial success under

the management of the City Council. Why then was the law passed changing the management? It will not do to say that there is a general law on the subject and that all but a few cities and towns have commissioners. Because everybody else in the community exposes themselves to small-pox is no reason why a man who is looking after his health should do so. The fact that a general law was first passed by the legislature and that, one after another well-governed city and town in this state has applied to the legislature for a change in the law so as to get rid of these commissioners would seem to indicate that, at least at some places, either this plan of managing matters is not satisfactory, or the commissioners have been carrying things with a high hand and the community has been forced to get rid of them.

We have inquired from people in every walk of life in the city, and none of them have been able to tell us anything about why the law was changed. No citizen of this city and no member of the present city council so far as we can learn ever heard of the proposed change until it had been made a law and then they didn't hear of it from any of those responsible for the change except in a round-about way. One former member of the city council told us that some two years ago when he was on the council Mr. Anderson was advocating Commissioners of Public Works, and we have heard it stated that this law was introduced in the Senate at the suggestion of Dr. Gambrell, and that the Senator, when he introduced it, supposed that he was acting, not at the solicitation of Dr. Gambrell, personally, but that the whole matter was understood and desired by the whole city council. This, however, seems to have been a mistake. If Senator Nickles had this impression he can likely tell us who is responsible for such impression. He can likely tell us who asked him to introduce the Bill changing the law.

Now, why did Mr. Anderson want a Board of Commissioners of Public Works? He came here as a hired employee from another city, and his business was to keep the plants running. We cannot see that there would be any more water in Savannah River for running the plants, nor that the wires would carry more or carry less current, or that the machinery would run smoother, or the expenses of doing his work would be more or less, whether the governing head of the plants was the city council, or the Commissioners of Public Works. He was elected by the City Council and not by commissioners of Public Works, and it must seem strange to some people, at least, that he would go around and try to destroy the authority under which he obtained his job, unless, perhaps, he sought some private advantage. Of course if he could pack the Board of Commissioners with friends of his, one holding for four years, and one for six, he would have the job nailed down, and his board having arbitrary powers, he could run matters with a freer hand, and manage the property of the taxpayers in this city more in accord with his own ideas. Is that what he has been seeking? Does the fact that he has not been able to get everything he has wanted from the full council and the fact that he has not always been in the best of standing with certain members of the council, indicate that Mr. Anderson has a personal interest in the law which has been enacted? Was he in any way responsible for its introduction and passage? Did he know that the change was being made? If so, who told him?

And what about Dr. Gambrell? His term as mayor is about to expire. He has been honored by the city for a good many years. He now holds, so far as we are advised, only three other public offices, namely: Member of the State Board of Health, Member of City Board of Health, and Trustee of City Schools. Now these three small offices are entirely insufficient for his insatiable maw for public office, it would seem. Has he been looking out for another office for himself? Did he, while saying nothing to the public about the change he had made in the law, have a talk with a member of the city council in which the information about the law was "tipped off" to this member with the

information that the city council should suggest to the voters, just before the election three names to support as members of this Board of Commissioners and did he say, in that conversation, that he would like to have one of the places? And did he suggest Mr. J. R. Glenn, a former councilman, supposed to be an Anderson supporter, for one of the other places, volunteering the information that Mr. Glenn had made one of the best members of the light committee the city had ever had? Perhaps, the Mayor will tell us?

In view of these suggestions, we again ask the voters of this city these questions:

Why was the law changed, and who was responsible for its change?

Why was the public not advised as to the change before it was made, and why was the city council not consulted?

Is anybody seeking a private advantage, or seeking to assume office in this city by virtue of a law which he has had enacted? Has anybody sought to make an office for himself?

Who is the other member on the slate? Is it proposed to put Dr. Neuffer in at the last minute as the other man to take care of the people's property?

If Mr. Glenn, Dr. Neuffer and Dr. Gambrell, when they were members of the city council, could operate the water works and electric light plant, so as to make them paying institutions, why is it that they want the law changed as they go out of office? Why do they go back to a system which was not successful in this city and which year after year is being repudiated by other well-governed cities?

Will the people of this city submit to such one man government? Why send men to France to fight autocracy when we submit to it at home?

Will the people do the only thing now possible,—nominate a ticket of three men for Commissioners put it in the field and elect it in the general election in April, and take charge of their own property, and tell Mr. Anderson to run the plants as he is employed to do, keep out of city politics, and that we will govern our own city, and tell Dr. Gambrell that there are other men in the city as competent as he and Dr. Neuffer to manage the affairs of this city? It is up to the voters in the city. They must either act or submit.

Let us have no more back room diplomacy.

"OVER THE TOP."

The Press and Banner has secured the right to publish "Over the Top" as a serial. This story is one of the greatest that has ever been written about the war. Arthur Guy Empey, the author, went over to England immediately after the sinking of the Lusitania and enlisted as a Canadian. For a year and a half before he fell in "No Man's Land", he saw more real fighting than any war correspondent who has written about the war.

This is a real live story and is well worth reading. Don't miss a single issue. It will probably begin in our next Tuesday's issue.

ABBEVILLE
RED CROSS NEWS.

The Lowndesville Branch of the Abbeville Chapter Red Cross, has fitted up a work room in the school building and the ladies met there Wednesday afternoon to fold compresses. Forty hanks of wool has been distributed among the members and they are already at work on sweaters.

It will perhaps be interesting to the Red Cross Chapter to know that eighteen sweaters knitted sometime ago by one Lowndesville family were worn by the troops on the Tuscania. These sweaters were knit for the Forestry Unit in Washington, D. C. and this unit furnished many sweaters to the troops stationed at the Catholic University of America. Before leaving to sail on this transport many of the soldiers were fitted with sweaters and the eighteen sent from here were among the lot given them.

Over the Top.

By an American Soldier Who Went
ARTHUR GUY EMPEY

When the Lusitania was sunk Arthur Guy Empey decided that he could not wait for his country to declare war—so he sailed without orders for England, and enlisted as a Canadian.

He recounts this incident in "OVER THE TOP" in less than five hundred words. In a few thousand more words he completes his experiences in England—and after that he is in France—for the greater part of the eighteen months before he was invalided home, in the "Front Line Trenches."

"OVER THE TOP" is the first story by one of the American soldiers who went to France, has been a real combatant and has seen long service in the trenches.

Sergeant Empey tells what it actually means and feels like:
to be wounded seven times;
to live for a year and a half with mud and rats and shells;
to be covered with "cooties" and never to get rid of them;
to go "over the top" in a charge;
to grasp for your gas helmet when a second's delay mean's death;
to capture a Prussian;
to get tangled up in barb-wire with that machine gun working a few yards away; to lie for thirty-six hours wounded and unconscious in "No Man's Land."

For a year and a half, until he fell wounded in "No Man's Land" this American soldier saw more actual fighting and real warfare than any war correspondent who has written about the war. His experiences are grim, but they are thrilling, and lightened by a touch of humor as original as the Soldiers Three. And they are True.

We take pleasure in announcing that we have secured serial rights to this remarkable story and that it will appear in installments
IN THIS NEWSPAPER It Is the Real Stuff!



The Greatest War Story Ever Written

NEWS FROM THE SURGICAL DRESSINGS DEPT. OF THE R. C.

Last week the best work was done in the surgical dressings department since the work began. Every day new workers were added to the regular number.

Tuesday is D. A. R. Day, Thursday U. D. C. day.

Both of these organizations were well represented and did splendid work. The D. A. R.'s have kindly offered the use of their rooms, which is a great help to the workers.

The second class in surgical dressings, under the direction of Mrs. J. C. Ellis, assisted by Miss Maggie Latimer, has just been completed.

Those taking the course are: Mesdames F. B. Gary, T. G. White, Lila Mabry, Rayford Power, D. R. Riser, Will Harris, J. M. Lawson, L. C. Parker, J. F. Youngblood, W. R. Speed, Misses Nettie Russell, Jessie Hill, Eliza Gary, Leila Link, Bessie Lee Cheatham, Louise Brown, Antoinette Thomson, Mary Quarles Link, Mary Smith, Fannie Stark, Mrs. Otto Bristow. The Red Cross is indebted to the Library Association for the use of their rooms for this class, and wish to thank them for this great kindness.

A box containing 2200 Compresses has just been shipped, another with scultetus, abdominal and T bandages will be sent this week. Chairman Surg. Dress. Dept.

CUTTING COMMITTEE FOR MARCH

Mrs. A. B. Morse, Chairman, Miss Bessie Lee Cheatham, Mrs. Jim Sherard. Ladies in charge of work rooms downstairs, every day except Monday from 10 to 1 o'clock. Tuesday—Mrs. D. R. Riser, Chmn. Wednesday—Mrs. F. E. Harrison, Chairman.

Thursday—Mrs. C. H. McMurray, Chairman. Friday—Mrs. E. P. Norwood, Ch. Saturday—Miss Maggie Latimer, Chairman. Ladies in charge D. A. R. Rooms: Tuesday—Mrs. Lila Mabry, Ch. Wednesday—Miss Nettie Russell, Chairman. Thursday—Miss Fannie Stark, Ch. Friday—Misses Mammie Morse and Mary Smith. Saturday—Miss Louise Brown. Packing Committee For 1918. Miss Onie Morse, Chairman, Caro Morse, Miss Maggie Latimer, Mrs. W. W. Bradley, Mrs. Harrison. Chairman of bandages, Mrs. J. H. Sherard. Mrs. J. C. Ellis, Supervisor of Surgical Dressings.

TO CHESTER.

Dr. G. A. Neuffer went over to Chester yesterday afternoon to take the following for operations or examinations: Miss Adelaide Philson, Mrs. W. H. White, Miss Edna White, Donald Harris, Frank Neuffer, Mrs. W. F. Perrin.

E. T. Link of Route 4, is a new subscriber. He wants to keep up with the news. Mr. Link is a farmer and is getting rich living at home on the supplies that he raises himself.

HOME ON LEAVE.

Capt. R. B. Cheatham came home Friday for a short holiday with his family. He was one of the interested listeners at Adjutant Fleury's lecture in the Court House Saturday night.

TWO ALIEN SOLDIERS IN GREENVILLE JAIL

Austrian and German Arrested by Marshal Lyon Under Order From Washington.

Camp Sevier, Greenville, Feb. 21. —Two soldiers from Camp Sevier, Privates Heinrich Adler, One Hun-

dred and Fifth Ammunition Train, Julius Rubenstein, base hospital, have been arrested by C. J. Lyon, United States Marshal, on confidential instructions from Washington and both men were lodged in the county jail here, presumably awaiting further instructions. The charge against them is not stated. Adler, who is 21 years of age, and who has been in this country only 20 months, is a German citizen. He says that when war was declared he was discharged by the firm in Charleston for which he was working and that being unable to get employment anywhere he enlisted in the army. Rubenstein is an uneducated Austrian, having been brought to this country when two years old. He was drafted at Newark, N. J., and was first sent to Camp Dix, Wrightstown, N. J., and later transferred here. Recently, according to him, he applied for an honorable discharge as an alien enemy. This, he says, was granted, but simultaneously he was arrested. Both men deny any hostile acts or intentions and Rubenstein affirms his sympathy for the United States, although Adler is apparently a great admirer of the German emperor. Following the usual action in such cases, they may be sent to a detention camp for the duration of the war.

BIRTHS.

Born—at Monterey, Feb. 23, 1918 to Mr. and Mrs. Jesse L. Sutherland, a son.

CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

(All advertisements in this column cash in advance.)

J. ALLEN LONG is hereby announced as a candidate for Mayor in the coming Democratic primary election, subject to the rules of the party and he pledges himself to abide its result.