

# THE LEXINGTON DISPATCH.

A Representative Newspaper. Covers Lexington and the Borders of the Surrounding Counties Like a Blanket.

VOL. XXXIX.

LEXINGTON, S. C., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1909.

15

## GLOBE DRY GOODS COMPANY,

W. H. MONCKTON, JR., MANAGER,

1620 MAIN STREET,

COLUMBIA, S. C.

Solicits a Share of Your Valued Patronage. Polite and Prompt Attention.

October 18th

### The HOME NATIONAL BANK OF LEXINGTON. ISSUES \$25,000 IN MONEY

We will make loans to our patrons and depositors on good security.

**DEPOSIT** Your money in this bank. The U. S. Government will see that it is taken care of.

SAMUEL B. GEORGE, President.

ALFRED J. FOX, Cashier.

KARL F. OSWALD, Asst. Cashier.

### Bank of Chapin

CHAPIN, S. C.

#### The Bank That Accommodates

This bank aims to give you good services. We cash out-of-town checks for you—furnish drafts for sending money way. We are always glad to assist you in business matters. Make your deposits with this bank, which makes a point of good treatment of its depositors. Our certificates of deposit bear interest at 5 per cent.

We cordially invite the farmers as well as the business men to do their banking with us.

J. S. WESSINGER, President.

J. F. HONEYCUTT, Cashier

### BROOKLAND BANK, NEW BROOKLAND, S. C.

We want your business. It is our desire to please. Leave your money with us until you need it. We pay interest four times a year.

J. C. QUIGNARD,  
Vice-President.

L. S. TROTTI,  
President

There comes a time in everyone's life when he needs a pointer—a helping hand to guide him to his destination.

### THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BATESBURG

is the pointer that will help you over future financial worries if you will begin the use of its Savings Department today.

## NOW IS THE TIME TO BEGIN!

#### Cultivate the habit of Saving.

The following are just a few reasons WHY you should carry a bank account:

1st. It provides you with an accurate and consecutive record of all money paid out.

2nd. It gives you confidence in your judgment.

3rd. Your bank account, however small, will be the start of a reserve fund which will mean peace plenty and a contentment in old age.

Deposit your money with us where it will be in active use and benefit the community in which you live.

## The Bank of Swansea.

R. L. LYBRAND, President

B. E. CRAFT, Cashier.

1892.

1909.

## Lexington Savings Bank.

LEXINGTON, S. C.

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits \$30,000.00.

5 per cent. interest paid on savings deposits, interest being computed semi-annually. Deposits of \$1.00 and over received.

Commercial accounts also given special attention. Ample facilities for handling your business, and your account will be appreciated.

Safety deposits boxes for rent, \$1.00 per year.

W. P. ROOF, President and Cashier

### BRIDGE CONTRACT UNDER SUSPICION.

Representative Harrison of Greenwood Claims That Wyse Ferry Bridge Will Cost \$7,000 Too Much.

Under the above heading The Columbia State on Thursday published the following interesting article on the steel bridge for which contract was let several weeks ago:

Is there graft in bridge building? Is there an understanding among bridge builders that certain territory is to be allotted to each?

Is it true that bids submitted in such respective territory are merely "complimentary"?

Is it a fact that after contracts are let, alterations are made by which the successful bidder gets a large percentage of profit?

The above questions have for months been puzzling some young engineers of this State, men of unimpeachable integrity. The first issue was made yesterday at Lexington, when Hon. Wade C. Harrison of Greenwood appeared before the grand jury and charged that the county is being mulcted to the extent of \$7,000 in one bridge contract, the total value of which is \$18,500.

In other words, Mr. Harrison submitted for others a proposal to duplicate the work for \$11,000, and in proving his good faith he offered a certified check for \$1,000 as a forfeit.

The grand jury complacently heard the statements, but had taken no action up to last night. It is expected that developments will follow today.

Following the great flood of last August, some young engineers saw that many thousands of dollars must be spent at once in replacing the bridges washed away. Purposing to engage in legitimate business, they decided to try to get as much of this work as possible under legitimate competition. In visiting several localities they were astonished at the conditions prevailing at the awarding of contracts upon the basis of alleged competitive bidding.

There was a spirit of camaraderie among the bidders, which was in itself suspicious, and some openly taunted others with bribing and offering bribes to county officials. Gradually these novices began to get the idea that it was useless to submit bids unless they "stood in" with the inner circles, for should they be so fortunate as to submit the lowest bids they would later find that all sorts of obstacles had been placed in the way of their getting material.

This matter came to the attention of Mr. Harrison. He has quietly been making observations for several months and has had the assistance of others who have been as sincerely interested, and the result has been that they think they have a clear case. Mr. Harrison will at a later time submit to the general assembly some affidavits which will give support to his bill to have all proposals for bridge contracts reviewed by a competent engineer or board of engineers.

Mr. Cosgrove in the house and Dr. Crosson in the senate have bills along the lines of the reforms advocated by Mr. Harrison.

Some time ago Mr. Harrison was informed by Mr. Thos. W. Cothran of Greenwood that Mr. J. W. Burgett, a bridge contractor, could give some valuable information with reference to the letting of a bridge contract in Lexington county. Mr. Burgett later in person confirmed to Mr. Harrison the statements made in Mr. Cothran's letter. Mr. Burgett furthermore confirmed these charges in a conversation with Senator Niels Christensen, Jr.

Mr. Harrison had a conference with the new supervisor in Lexington and made photographic copies of the records in the matter. Yesterday the grand jury of Lexington county notified Mr. Harrison that his presence was desired. Accordingly he went to Lexington and invited Senator Christensen to accompany him to confirm certain statements. These were in effect as follows:

That a bridge was to be built by Lexington county over Saluda river at Wyse's ferry, about nine miles northwest of Columbia. That Mr. Burgett conferred with the former supervisor, G. H. Koon, and that the supervisor stated "he expected something out of it." Burgett accordingly raised his figures on hauling from \$160 to \$500 and let the supervisor have the hauling. Burgett claimed that he submitted the lowest bid \$15,400, but that the Carolina Engineering company of Burlington, N. C., got the contract for \$18,000.

Burgett stated that his agreement with the supervisor was that Burgett was to submit a bid in blank "and the supervisor agreed to put the figures on the bid when he opened it." He claims that this was done and that he was the lowest bidder.

When this became known to Mr. Harrison he advised the Southern Highway Bridge company of Greenwood and they made an investigation, and later submitted a report with a bid—accompanied by a check for \$1,000 to guarantee good faith—in which they agreed to build the bridge

for \$11,952.

The singular point about the transaction with the Carolina Engineering company is that they submitted a bid of \$18,000 on 542 feet, while the others bid on 600 feet, and Burgett claims to have submitted the lowest bid by \$3,000 on 58 feet more than the contract was let for. Under date of December 23, 1908, T. C. Carter of Burlington, N. C., general manager of the Carolina Engineering company, wrote regarding changes in plans for bridge for which contract was let 16 days before and says: "Along with these papers, return the old blue prints and specifications which you have, so as to avoid any confusion between the two contracts."

There is much in the transaction that is interesting and it may be that Mr. Harrison's appearing before the grand jury at Lexington yesterday may result in wholesale investigations throughout the State.

The charges are serious. If true, the grand jury will know what to do. If unfounded, ex-Supervisor Koon has redress against Burgett for defamation of character.

### Court Proceedings.

When we went to press last week the case of the State against Noah and Gideon Burkett, two young negroes from the lower part of the county charged with assault and battery, was in progress. The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and they were sentenced to three months on the gang or to pay a fine of \$40. The fine was paid.

Kain Adams, a negro, was convicted of highway robbery and was sentenced to serve two years on the gang.

B. F. Rushton, who was convicted of forgery in his absence, was sentenced to serve eight months on the chain-gang or to pay a fine of \$50. Rushton is a young white man from Saluda county and it was alleged that he secured money from the Citizens' Bank of Batesburg by forgery.

Allen Gillian, a white man from Saluda county, pleaded guilty to the charge of forgery and was sentenced to serve a period of 12 months on the gang and to pay a fine of \$25.

W. W. Harris, a negro preacher and school teacher from the Dutch Fork, was tried for assault and battery with intent to kill, it having been alleged that he shot another negro at a school closing some time during 1907. He was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of \$200 or serve six months on the gang.

On Thursday at noon the case of the State against Thomas Craft, the young white man charged with the murder of Garfield Hutto at the home of Mildred Brown in the sand hills on the night of December 26, last year, was begun. There were many witnesses on both sides and the trial consumed all of last week and Monday of this week. The case was hotly contested, Solicitor Timmerman, being assisted in the prosecution by ex-Sheriff Sharpe, while Messrs. Graham & Turkie appeared for the defendant. The case was given to the jury on Monday evening at 6:55 and at 8:40 a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree with recommendation to mercy was rendered, which means that Tom Craft will spend the remainder of his life in the penitentiary unless the supreme court sets aside the verdict of the twelve men who passed upon the case.

### Presentment of the Grand Jury.

To the Hon. Charles G. Dantzier, Presiding Judge:

We, the grand jury of Lexington county for the year 1909, submit the following report of our work during this, the February term of court:

We have passed upon all bills of indictment submitted to us at the present term, and returned them to the court with our findings endorsed thereon.

A committee of our body has made an examination of the court house and jail, and find both in good condition and neatly kept.

Six members of our body appointed as a committee by our foreman visited the county poor house and farm. This committee reports verbally that it finds the tenements occupied by colored paupers badly kept, there being considerable stench and filth in and about said building. All other buildings of this institution are reasonably well kept, and the inmates, three white and five colored, very well fed, clothed and cared for by the officials.

The roof of the steward's house is badly in need of repairs, also the steps to some of the buildings and fencing around the institution should receive attention. We recommend that these matters be called to the attention of the county supervisor at once.

This body has appointed our foreman, A. L. Hook, and Charles J. Huffman and Isaiah Hallman, as a special committee to examine all the various officers, together with the bond of the officials, and to report upon the same, and ask that they be allowed to employ an expert to assist them in the discharge of this duty, said expert to receive the customary fee for his services.

We note the article that appears in The State this morning under the heading, "Bridge Contract Under Suspicion." This article refers to the



### A DOLLAR IN HAND

is worth only half as much as one in the bank. For there is at least twice in the temptation to spend it. Put temptation out of your way by depositing your cash in

## Citizens Bank of Batesburg,

BATESBURG, S. C.

It's safer there any way than in your safe or cash box. Start your account today with what you have. Make it a rule to deposit all your cash and pay all bills by check. You'll find you have more left for yourself every time you balance your books. We pay interest on time deposits quarterly.

U. X. GUNTER, Pres.

A. C. JONES, Cashier.

WM. M. CARTER, Asst. Cashier.

matter of the building of a steel bridge across Saluda river in our county and the execution of the contract for the same made some weeks ago.

This article is misleading in some respects, as this grand jury did not notify Mr. Harrison that his presence was desired. Nor was any one else notified to appear before us in regard to this matter. Three gentlemen voluntarily, as far as we know, asked leave to appear before us yesterday and discussed in our presence several matters in reference to the contract for the building of the bridge referred to.

After hearing these gentlemen our jury took no action in regard to the matter.

This jury will undertake to perform its full duty in the premises, whenever in its judgment sufficient information is secured upon which to predicate action.

We thank you, Honor and the various officers of the court for the valuable instruction and assistance given us in the discharge of our duties at the present term of the court.

A. L. HOOK, Foreman.

Feb. 4, 1909.

### Fork Township Asks Admission.

The agitation in Fork township, Lexington county, for that township to be annexed to Richland county has taken very tangible form in that a petition asking the governor to order an election on this subject has been presented to Gov. Ansell.

The petition was presented by a committee from Fork township consisting of Messrs. J. S. Huffman, chairman; T. B. Huffman and R. B. Barr. These gentlemen, together with many others, have been hard at work in the matter and are very enthusiastic about the annexation. They announce that out of 160 qualified voters few will oppose the annexation. The election will probably be ordered as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

Fork township includes school districts Nos. 44 and 45, the territory adjoining Columbia township. The citizens of the township, in advocating the annexation, say that among the excellent reasons they have for such a desire are, the change will give better school facilities, taxes will be lower and that it is decidedly nearer to the Richland court house than to Lexington. These citizens as a unit trade in Columbia and many furnish Columbia citizens with a large amount of garden truck.

One of the strongest arguments advanced by the petitioners is the difference in the distance. The maximum distance from Fork township to Lexington court house is about 17 miles and to Columbia it is about 7 miles. It is necessary to pass through Columbia to reach Lexington by rail from the Fork township.

Great interest is aroused not only in Fork township but elsewhere since the agitation commenced. The outcome of the election is awaited eagerly and in Fork township the situation is tense.

### Juror Drops Dead in Court.

Yorkville, Feb. 8.—Quite a sensation was created in the court house this morning, Mr. J. C. Hill, a substantial farmer and esteemed citizen of Bullocks Creek township, who was a juror at this term of court, walked into the room and in a few minutes after sitting down he fell over into the arms of a friend and expired before a physician could reach him.

### Notice To Taxpayers.

Auditor W. D. Dent will be at New Brookland Friday and Saturday, 12th and 13th, for the purpose of taking tax returns. Please bear this in mind and be on hand promptly.

## Avery

THE JEWELER

1637 Main St., Columbia, S. C.

Unsurpassed opportunity is given here to find attractive articles for gift purposes, and Dispatch readers are cordially invited to do their shopping at Avery's.

A Store Full of good things awaits inspection and attractive prices prevail, so none may go away dissatisfied. Can mention but few things in this place. For fuller details visit Avery's.

Watches of all styles, sizes and prices. We prefer to sell the finest, but whether its \$100.00 or \$1.00 you wish to spend you get good value any time.

Umbrellas make useful gifts for women and men. Finely mounted in gold and silver from \$2.50 to \$25.00. Fans are essentially feminine. Dainty white and black designs, and hand painted effects. Prices very reasonable.

Silverware from leading factories, and this stock comprises goods in sterling silver from Tea Sets to Tea Balls with all the spoons, forks and knife family. The silver plated goods for common every day use is likewise complete.

Jewelry in all forms comprise a carefully selected stock and whether its 25 cents or 25 dollars you have to spend you can find it at Avery's. Eyes that need glasses get most scrupulous attention by a graduate optician.

Free. I am giving away a few pictures—a reproduction of a \$12.500 painting. To get it you must register your name at this store before Dec. 25th. It's free—there is no chance, no drawing for it. Ask any one in the store about it.

AVERY, The Jeweler  
1637 Main St., Columbia, S. C.

## Honesty in Jewelry

"If it came from Sentsz's, you know it's all right," is what one of our customers remarked to another the other day.

When you buy Jewelry, you generally have to take the "Jeweler's word for it" whether it is good or not.

That's just where our reputation for honesty and fair dealing counts.

And furthermore, we will always give you your money back and ask no questions any time you are dissatisfied with a purchase.

Special attention to mail orders.

## CHARLES F. SENTZ, JEWELER,

1439 Main, Columbia, S. C.

Mr. D. P. Yonce, one of the best citizens in the Polio section, was in town Monday and called in to see us and left his dollar.