

CLINTON . . . WATER AND LIGHT RATES.

The publisher of The Chronicle is in receipt of the following article from Councilman J. F. Jacobs, with a request for publication.

"There has been considerable criticism of the high water and light rates charged by the town council of Clinton. Our mayor, feeling that the rates are fully justified, has paid no attention to the criticisms. As he is not very much given to making explanations and as the critics are unjustified the writer wishes to lay before the people of Clinton the actual facts of the case.

"The light and water rates of Clinton have been increased 50 per cent. as compared with the pre-war period. The cost of operating the plant has increased in a larger degree than this increase in rates. Coal before the war cost \$80 per ton. It now costs \$2.60 per ton. Firemen before the war cost \$17.50 per month. They are now paid \$50.00 per month.

"All other expenses have gone up in proportion. During the past year it has been necessary for the town to purchase additional land costing \$500.00, to erect an additional ground level reservoir costing approximately \$3,000 and doubling the storage capacity of water, to raise the walls and put on a new roof on the power house costing approximately \$1,000. It is the endeavor of the administration to really give fine service, and keep the plant in perfect condition at all times. The up-keep is much more expensive than before the war, owing to the increase in the price of oils, boiler flues, and all repair parts.

"The number of street lamps has been doubled. It is the desire of the administration to operate the water and light and sewer system without creating a deficit. That is not practicable on the old rate at present costs. The deficit would be very heavy indeed if the old rates were still in force. It is the desire of the mayor to reduce the rates as soon as costs are so reduced as to admit of it, but that is not practicable at the present time. The entire taxable returns of the town amount to only about \$1,000,000. At 15 mills this yields only \$15,000 a year approximately, with which to run the town. Of this sum \$5,100 is required to meet the interest on \$100,000 of bonds. If a large deficit were created by the light, water and sewer system, there could be no street improvements. For this reason the rates are established on a basis which will admit of paying cost

of operation and maintenance of the plant, and whatever necessary expenses may be required by the town's development.

"It has been suggested that the administration might do better by taking hydro-electric power. There are two possible sources. The Southern Power Company is the biggest concern operating in this region. It would not bring its line to Clinton, however, unless it could sell vastly more power than the town uses, and unless the mills in Clinton decide to electrify their plants and take the hydro-electric power of the Southern Power Company, there is no prospect of that company coming to Clinton for they would have to charge the town of Clinton vastly more than it costs to produce the power by steam.

"The only other concern which could deliver the power, and would deliver it to Clinton is the Reedy River Power Company. That concern desires to sell power to the town, but has never made a proposition which was regarded as a profitable one for the town to accept.

All hydro-electric companies occasionally fall down in delivery of power. For instance, at the automobile show a few nights ago power gave out in Greenville and for 45 minutes there was no light. It is much more important to have power and water and light always available than to have cheap rates. Service in Clinton is hardly equalled by the service in any of the towns taking hydro-electric power.

"It would be necessary, in case we were to purchase hydro-electric power, to maintain our steam plant ready for emergencies which would involve the constant employment of firemen and engineer, even though the plant is not in operation. It will also be necessary to operate it occasionally to keep it from deteriorating.

"Under these circumstances, the price which the hydro-electric power company offers must be competitive with the coal and oil cost of a steam plant and not with the total cost of operation. Otherwise, the purchase of hydro-electric power, together with the maintenance of the steam plant as a subsidiary emergency system would involve a higher cost than operating the steam plant alone. It is for these reasons that no hydro-electric contract has been made by the city of Clinton. It is the opinion of the administration that the people of Clinton would prefer not to accumulate debts on the operation of their power, light, water, and sewer system, that they would also prefer to have the town constantly making

progress in the way of street improvements, that they would prefer to have a light of such quality and steadiness as would constitute the best possible service, and that if to yield this kind of a service and operate the town affairs in a conservative and safe way, it is necessary to charge the higher rate, it is confidently believed that the mass of the people of Clinton would prefer to have the higher rate. It would be manifestly unfair to sell water and light and power at a rate so low as to accumulate a deficit in the operation of the plant, which could only be discharged by taking tax money away from street improvement. Consequently, people who do not buy light power, or even water from the town, would have some of their tax money paid in to cover a deficit resulting from selling at too low a price to the users of those commodities. This would be manifestly unfair.

"It is hoped that conditions will so improve within the next year as to permit of a reduction in the rates; but that will depend upon the cost of operation.

J. F. JACOBS.,

CHAUTAUQUA ENTHUSIASTS
MEET SATURDAY.

Miss L. Jeannette Totten, the clever organizer of the Community Chautauquas who was in Clinton a while back in the interest of Clinton's Chautauqua, is returning to Clinton to meet with all the guarantors and those interested in the Chautauqua, Saturday, April 5th.

At the meeting all of the guarantors and friends of the Chautauqua will meet for organization. There a manager or president of the Chautauqua Association will be elected, as well as the chairman of the various committees that will have the arrangements for the Chautauqua in charge.

It is expected that there will be a full meeting as a great deal of interest is being shown in the undertaking. The general public is invited to attend. The meeting will be only a short one and a business meeting solely.

A great deal of interest is being displayed in the probable pro-

gramme of the Chautauqua and announcements in this respect will probably be made at this meeting. The date, another interesting subject, will also be discussed.

The big Chautauqua will appear in a large tent in which will be comfortable seats for a large audience. The Chautauqua management furnish the tent and erect it. A few accessories are necessary, however, and a committee will probably be elected to be called the grounds committee to co-operate with the Chautauqua in this respect. There will also have to be ticket, advertising and other committees.

The Chautauqua for Clinton is headed by a large number of Clinton's most influential business and professional men as well as a number of ladies. The list below includes the names of all who have agreed to act as guarantors for the Chautauqua. Others have indicated a desire also to become guarantors and will no doubt be added to the list. The list is as follows:

B. H. Boyd, Wm. P. Jacobs, Jack H. Young, M. G. Woodworth, D. J. Brimm, L. Ross Lynn, A. E. Spencer, John D. Bell, W. W. Harris, J. Lee Young, Crawford Clapp, Mrs. W. J. Bailey, Simpson Gro. Co., W. C. Bailey, C. M. Bailey, R. H. Hatton, John T. Young, E. W. Ferguson, J. H. Stone, L. A. Barrow, James Brethes & Co., John Spratt, L. F. McSwain, (Miss) Clara E. Duckett, Jas. R. Copeland, J. I. Coleman, Edgar Todd, Adair Furniture Co., E. B. Sloan, E. M. Gillespie, W. H. Simpson, L. D. McCrary, R. B. Vance, G. W. Young, Mrs. J. F. Jacobs, Sr., Milling Gro. Co., J. M. Pitts, J. F. Jacobs, Jr., C. W. Stone, J. F. Jacobs, Sr.

The meeting will be held at Copeland's Hall, Saturday morning at 10:30 A. M., and all who are interested are urged to be present.

FINAL SETTLEMENT
Take notice that on the 28th day of April 1919 I will render a final account of my acts and doings as Administrator of the estate of Thomas Carter deceased, in the office of the Judge of Probate of Laurens county, at 11 o'clock, a. m. and on the same day will apply for a final discharge from my trust as Administrator.

Any person indebted to said estate is notified and required to make payments on that date, and all persons having claims against said estate will present them on or before said date. Duly proven or be forever barred.

E. B. Sloan
Administrator

March 28, 1919.

Sweet Potato Plants

I have contracted for 75,000 Nancy Hall and Porto Rico Potato Plants and can get them any time desired on 3 or 4 days notice from now until June 15th. Please give me your order.

I. C. BOLAND.

THIRTY YEARS EXPERIENCE
IN FITTING GLASSES

E. B. GARVIN
OPTOMETRIST

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 A. M. TO 12:50 P. M.
1:50 P. M. TO 6 P. M.

Office Commercial Bank Building

For Sale—300 bushels pure Mexican big boll Cotton Seed at \$1.50 per bu. Also a few Cleveland big boll at the same price. T. J. BLALOCK.

FOR SALE—Japanese Ribbon Cane Syrup. Also Cane Seed for sale.

ANDY Y. JONES.

KHAKI SOLDIERS
DID NOT LET UP

And the Nation Will Show
That It Stands Behind Them
in the Victory Liberty Loan
Drive.

More than a million of Uncle Sam's boys are "over there" looking after the common good of the world. And they will have to stay upon the job until it is done; until things are righted again; until order is brought out of chaos.

While they are overseas they must be taken care of adequately; they must be clothed and fed, and lodged comfortably. Uncle Sam estimates that it costs \$423.27 a year to equip and maintain a soldier in Europe.

Part of the proceeds from the coming Victory Liberty Loan will be devoted to caring for the "doughboys." Part of it will go into the rehabilitation fund for putting the injured soldiers back upon their feet. Part of it will go for insurance claims. The rest of it will go to meet the hundred and one demands for this greatest of world emergencies since the dawn of civilization.

Every mother's son of them did his part, helped insure liberty and justice for the world at large and restore Uncle Sam to his rightful position in the estimation of the nations of earth.

They did their duty fully, these boys who won. They fought to the end, through fire and flood. They never talked about letting up.

This is no time for Americans to think of letting up. The nation must stand by its guns, by its records; by Uncle Sam and must make the next loan another big success.

See our display of Aluminum ware.
S. M. & E. H. WILKES & CO.

GEO. H. ELLIS

J. K. HATTON

ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with a great deal of pleasure that the Ellis Motor Company announces to the public the connection of Mr. J. K. Hatton of this city, he becoming a firm member and devoting his entire time to the sale and service of automobiles.

Our repair department we hope to make second to none in the State, we have secured the services of Mr. W. E. West, an expert mechanic of sixteen years experience in automobile building and repairing, and hope to give the public efficient service on all repair work intrusted to our care, and we will appreciate a trial.

Mr. West arrived yesterday, and is now at your service. A complete stock of tires, tubes, auto accessories, gasoline and oils will be carried at all times, our filling station will soon be seen on West Main Street ("It's a Beauty"), which will in the near future be our new home.

"COME SEE US"

Ellis-Hatton Motor Company
DISTRIBUTORS

Clinton,

South Carolina