

COUNTRY NEWS LETTERS

SOME INTERESTING HAPPENINGS IN VARIOUS SECTIONS.

News Items Gathered All Around the County and Elsewhere.

Ehrhardt Etchings.

Ehrhardt, Dec. 14.—Everything is quiet down our way. These bleak December days keep everybody in around the fire if they are to be kept comfortable.

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Copeland have rented the old Ehrhardt home from Mr. Chas. Ehrhardt, and will move to town to spend their old days, where it is easy to live and convenient to spend money.

Rev. B. J. Guess left last Saturday for his new field of work, Spring Street church, Charleston. Our new pastor, the Rev. Felder, is expected this week some time.

The Ehrhardt-Griffin marriage is to take place this eve, at the home of the bride. This is to be a very quiet affair, owing to the sadness over the loss of the bride's father recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Griffin will be at home at the Ehrhardt hotel after a short bridal tour and visits among relatives of Walterboro. We extend our heartiest congratulations to these young folks and wish them a long and happy life.

Mrs. W. B. Moore and little sons, William, and McBride, returned last Thursday from a short visit among her relatives at White Hall, S. C.

The dancers of the town are expecting to have a ball some time during the holidays; they will announce later the date, etc. JEF.

Clear Pond News.

Clear Pond, Dec. 14.—Miss Vera McMillan, who attends school at Ehrhardt, spent the week-end at home.

Mr. Boyd Ayers and Miss Pearl Barr, of Denmark, visited at the home of Mr. G. W. Folk recently.

Mrs. P. K. Hughes and children spent a few days last week with relatives at Berry Creek.

Miss Minnie Lou Carter returned to her home in Augusta Saturday after a week's visit to her cousin, Miss Mamie Morris.

Miss Cora Lee Varn, the efficient teacher of Clear Pond school, visited friends at Carlisle Sunday.

Mrs. A. Q. Drawdy, of Farrell's, spent last Saturday and Sunday with Mrs. J. B. Folk.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Folk are visiting relatives at Hilda.

Miss Mamie Morris spent last week-end with Miss Clara Priester, of Bamberg.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Clayton, of Pellon, were visitors at the home of Mrs. A. R. Walker last week.

Miss Meta Hughes and Mrs. DuBois, spent Sunday with Mrs. P. K. Rantz, near Ehrhardt.

Messrs. Jones, Gunnells, and Drawdy, of Olar, were guests of Mr. Edward Walker Sunday. They came over in Mr. Drawdy's car.

Mrs. P. K. Hughes, and Mrs. DuBois, visited Mrs. J. F. Mitchell Monday.

The public is cordially invited to attend a Christmas tree at Clear Pond school Thursday, December 23, beginning at 7 o'clock.

Colston News.

Colston, Dec. 14.—We have been having cold weather for the past few days.

Albert McMillan, of Bamberg, was the welcome guest of his mother, Mrs. J. C. McMillan, Sunday.

A Christmas tree will be given at the Colston school house the 23rd, at 5:30 o'clock. A special invitation is extended to the patrons and public.

Mr. Talbert Padgett was in the Springtown section Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Party Ayer, of Olar, were the welcome guests of their mother, Mrs. Sam Clayton, on Sunday.

Cope Cullings.

Cope, Dec. 13.—Miss Julia Cope returned home from Columbia on Saturday, she having been there the past three weeks with relatives and friends.

Miss Evelyn Henerey, who spent the week-end with her cousin, Louise Perryclear, of Orangeburg, returned home last night.

Winter is now putting in her ap-

CLAIMED BY DEATH.

Solicitor of First Circuit Succumbs to Illness at Home in Orangeburg.

Orangeburg, Dec. 11.—Preston T. Hildebrand, solicitor of the 1st judicial circuit of South Carolina, died at his home in this city at 2:30 o'clock this morning. He had been very ill for some time, and the end, though a matter of great sorrow to the whole community, was not a surprise.

A Michigan inventor has brought out a portable refrigerator, somewhat resembling a suit case, in which there is a chamber for cracked ice above a compartment for holding perishable goods.

pearance in good style, and as a consequence many fine porkers are paying the usual penalty; from now on plenty of pudding, sausage, spare ribs, etc., or in other words, "beef and hominy," will be in evidence.

It is understood that the Sunday school of the Sawyer Memorial church will have a Christmas tree on Christmas eve night.

Let every member of Cypress camp, No. 161, W. O. W., remember that there will be a meeting on Thursday night, December 16, at seven-thirty p. m., and that the annual election of officers will take place at that time.

Mr. Tom Broxton left on Saturday for a visit to relatives and friends at Broxton's bridge.

Quietly Married Sunday.

Cope, Dec. 13.—Last evening at seven-thirty o'clock Miss Dippie Houck was quietly married at the home of her aunt, Mrs. J. S. Zeigler, of 39 Green street, Orangeburg, to Mr. W. H. McKinney, of Greenwood. The Rev. C. B. Burns, of Cope, officiated.

Miss Houck is a daughter of Mr. Jake Houck, of the Wesley Grove section of the Fork, and a member of Wesley Grove church, of which Rev. Burns had charge the past year. Mr. McKinney is a popular and prosperous business man and furniture dealer of Greenwood, his home town. Immediately after the ceremony the happy couple left by the Southern for their future home in Greenwood.

Honor Roll Denmark School.

First grade—Albert Bean, J. Z. Brooker, Leslie Easterling, Hoyt Smoak, Louis Spann, Hugh Sharpe, Govan Zeigler, Dorothy Hightower.

Second grade—Koger Smoak, Haggood Zorn, Helen Brooker, Dorothy Crum, Winnie Cox, Mamie Turner, Miriam Turner, Mary Hane Walker, Grace Wiggins.

Third grade—John Turner, Edward Zeigler, Sarah Califf, Beatrice Chitty, Julia Ray, Thelma Sharpe.

Fourth grade—James McCrae, Frances Dozier, George Marion Hope, Richard Sojourner, Albert Folk, Margaret Brooker.

Fifth grade—Eldridge Hightower, Ruby Abstance, Joe Matthews, Helen Turner, Dorothy Riley, Evelyn Cain, Byrl Price, Dottie B. Smoak.

Sixth grade—Georgia LeCroy, Ruth Califf.

Seventh grade—Edna Creech, Pearl Barr, Anna Matthews, Julia M. Riley.

Eighth grade—Harold Sojourner, Ruth Folk, Cecile Hope, Elizabeth McCrae, Julia McCrae.

Ninth grade—Willie Delle Hutto, Sabelle Cain, Julia Cox, Mildred Lee, Ethel Patrick.

Tenth grade—Jasper Sojourner, Genie Fogle, Barnwell Huggins, Zelma Herndon, Clara Wyman.

Eleventh grade—Virginia Hutto.

Govan Goings.

Govan, Dec. 10.—Boiling syrup and killing hogs has been the order of the day for some time. Mr. Cooper Gunnels has made up 700 gallons of nice syrup. Mr. C. W. Bessinger has butchered perhaps the largest hog in the county; it tipped the scales after being dressed for 510 pounds. If anyone can beat that in this county we would like to hear from him in the next issue.

We are glad to note the large acreage in wheat being planted throughout this community.

Our school rooms are filled with a large number of students and the school is progressing fine; the children are beginning to make their plans for Christmas and longing for Santa to come.

IN THE PALMETTO STATE

SOME OCCURRENCES OF VARIOUS KINDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

State News Boiled Down for Quick Reading.—Paragraphs About Men and Happenings.

Dirt was broken Saturday for Spartanburg's new \$250,000 hotel. The building will be seven stories tall.

Elbert Dawkins, a Newberry county negro, drank more than a quart of gin on Friday, December 3. He is dead.

Dr. John A. Brunson, of St. Matthews, has decided to accept a call to the pastorate of the First Baptist church of Sumter.

The two story frame dwelling of John Whisonant, of Blacksburg, was destroyed by fire last week. The property was valued at about \$3,000.

McQueen Mack, a negro boy of Orangeburg county, is in jail in Orangeburg charged with an attempted criminal assault upon a white girl of the Fork section of Orangeburg county.

Rev. C. L. Brown, of Japan, has been elected a member of the Lutheran Mission board to succeed Dr. R. C. Holland, who died in Columbia recently. He will be general secretary of the mission's board.

By a vote of approximately four to one, McCormick won its new county fight at Tuesday's election. The name of the new county will be McCormick county. The new county embraces portions of Abbeville, Greenwood and Edgefield counties.

George W. Tidwell, sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for shooting R. Emmett Walker, after the latter had admitted seducing his daughter, has abandoned his appeal to the supreme court and will enter upon the service of his sentence within the next few days.

The following have been named as postmasters in different places in South Carolina by the president: W. S. Hite, Batesburg; G. I. Hutchinson, Summerville; W. J. Stanley, Hampton; J. C. Jennings, Pickens; A. P. Stewart, McCormick; J. P. Ouzts, Edgefield; L. S. Bowers, Prosperity.

Greenwood Rogers and two other negroes serving sentences on the State prison farm in Kershaw county made their escape last week after they had overpowered a guard and taken his Winchester rifle and pistol away from him. Rogers was serving a sentence of life imprisonment for the murder of a white man in Laurens county. A reward of \$50 has been offered for the capture of each of the escaped convicts.

Misspelled Words.

Seven out of every 100 third grade public school children in the United States cannot spell the word "has," according to a report just compiled by Dr. Leonard P. Ayres, of the Russell Sage Foundation, on the special problems inherent in the teaching of spelling. Dr. Ayres's study also brought out many other orthographic oddities.

Dr. Ayres selected the 1,000 words that constitute 90 per cent. of the language ordinarily used. This selection was made from various English authors, from four Sunday newspapers of Buffalo, N. Y., and from the business and family correspondence of more than 2,000 adults.

Cooperating with the school superintendents in eighty-four cities of the United States, Dr. Ayres had the 1,000 commonest words tested by an aggregate of 1,400,000 spellings, secured from 70,000 public school children.

Nine words of most frequent use, viz, "the," "in," "so," "no," "now," "man," "ten," "bed," "top," revealed that second grade pupils on an average spelled correctly 94 per cent. of these words. At the other extreme of the scale of words "judgment," "recommend" and "allege" were found to be spelled correctly by just 50 per cent. of eighth grade pupils.

Dr. Ayres finds: "There are very few exceedingly poor spellers, many medium ones, and very few excellent ones. Few words do most of our work when we write. Fifty words constitute, with their repetitions, one-half of the words written. The child who masters the 1,000 words on the scale given will make no spelling errors in nine-tenths of his writing."

A sand box for automobiles, like the familiar device on locomotives, to distribute sand under their tires to prevent skidding, has been patented by a Massachusetts inventor.

ARMOR PLATE PLANT BILL.

Tillman to Introduce Measure in Senate Soon.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Senator Tillman, chairman of the naval committee of the senate, intends to introduce tomorrow a separate bill for the establishment of a government armor plate plant, as he wishes to present this proposition to the country for discussion at once and does not believe the naval appropriation bill likely to reach the senate from the house before next June.

Belled Buzzard Caught.

A special from St. George, S. C., on Thursday says:

"The famous belled buzzard that has been reported to have been seen and heard for some years has at last been caught. Several years ago a belled buzzard was reported to have been seen, but none had been able to catch it until S. A. Shorter, who resides on the farm of J. H. Behling, Esq., of this place, caught this bird in a trap and took from his neck a large sized bell, with the initials of 'T. M. W., Va., 1896.' This brass bell is now at the office of the Dorchester Eagle, where anyone who wishes to see it may do so. The first reports of the belled bird were taken as a joke, but now it is seen to be a fact."

Who Am I?

I am more powerful than the combined armies of the world.

I have destroyed more men than all the wars of the world.

I am more deadly than bullets, and I have wrecked more homes than the mightiest of the siege guns.

I steal in the United States alone over \$300,000,000 a year.

I spare no one, and I find my victims among the rich and poor alike; the young and old; the strong and weak; widows and orphans know me.

I loom up to such proportions that I cast my shadow over every field of labor from the turning of the grindstone to the movements of railroad trains.

I menace thousands upon thousands of wage-earners in a year.

I lurk in unseen places, and do most of my work silently. You are warned against me, but heed me not.

I am relentless. I am everywhere; in the home, on the streets, in the factory, at railroad crossings and on the sea.

I bring sickness, degradation and death and yet few seek to avoid me. I destroy, crush, maim; I give nothing, but take all.

I am your worst enemy.

My name is CARELESSNESS.—Exchange.

Coins Short in Paris.

Notices have been posted in many of the Parisian cafes that patrons who do not have the right change to pay for refreshments will have to accept postage stamps or checks for change for any sum less than ten sous, says an Associated Press dispatch. This is another indication of the scarcity of coppers, which numerous collections for charitable purposes have withdrawn temporarily from circulation, and the fact that since money became scarce there has been a tendency on the part of the people to cling to what they have. Some people are said to be hoarding coppers because they are afraid they will get entirely out of them, and others, it is charged, are collecting them with the less worthy motive of making five francs premium on every hundred francs in copper coin delivered at certain confidential points. It is the old story of the Germans trying to drain France of its copper. The real reason is thought in official circles to be simply that the absence of gold overworks all the minor denominations, copper and nickel, as well as silver.

The mint is handicapped by the mobilizing of some of its machines for other urgent work for the national defense and the copper coinage fell last month to 100,000 francs.

Charged With Robbing Negro.

Quincy Miller and John W. Shealy, young white men of Lexington county are in the Lexington county jail charged with robbing Cleveland Bell, a 13-year-old negro boy of \$1.50 and then setting his clothing on fire after they had poured kerosene over him. It is said that the boy's presence of mind saved him from burning to death, he having jumped into a pond nearby after his clothing was ignited. He was painfully burned as it was.

Read the Herald, \$1.50 per year.

PLAN FOR ADEQUATE NAVY

REPORT OUTLINES FIVE-YEAR BUILDING PROGRAMME.

For First Time in History of Department Secretary's Estimates Exceed Those of General Board.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Details of the half billion-dollar navy continuing plan recommended to congress are contained in the annual report of Secretary Daniels made public tonight.

The report shows that for the first time in the history of the department the secretary's recommendations increase the expenditures proposed by the general board. In this connection the secretary says:

"My recommendation of a five-year programme embraces the same number as proposed by the general board in the distribution it made in the five-year programme of dreadnaughts, battle cruisers, scouts and destroyers. I recommend fifteen fleet submarines where the general board recommends nine, and I recommend eighty-five coast submarines, as against fifty-eight recommended by the general board. For additional reserve ammunition, my recommendation is \$25,000,000, whereas the general board recommends \$11,000,000. They recommend something more for other craft. My total for the five years is \$502,482,214. The general board's total is \$499,876,000, a very slight difference for the five years, though the board's recommendation for the first year is much larger than the department's estimate."

The five-year programme for new ships and completion of those already authorized reaches a grand total of \$502,482,214, with large appropriations for reserve ammunition and aviation.

Secretary Daniels differed from the general board in one important particular at least as to the programme, although the total number of ships to be constructed and the types recommended are those proposed by the board. The secretary says:

"The general board was called upon for advice in this connection, and the department has accepted its recommendations as regards numbers of capital ships. As regards their distribution over a five-year period, it was concluded, in view of all the circumstances, that it would be best to make this as nearly uniform as might be. This course has obvious practical advantages, particularly in view of the present congested condition of the shipbuilding industry in this country. Moreover, since the maximum rate of expenditure upon the capital ships, which take some years to build in any case, will not be reached immediately, it enables us to concentrate more at first upon submarines and other quickly built craft, so that we will get earlier returns for our expenditure in the shape of completed vessels."

It is understood the board recommended a particularly large programme for the first year.

The secretary calls attention to the fact that he established a precedent last year in making public the report of the general board, which he will follow this year at a later date. The result, he says, is certain to arouse discussion as between the recommendations of the board and of the secretary, but adds:

"But discussion makes for knowledge and a wise decision. The general board is influenced by it professional views, while the administration takes into consideration the whole national policy and does not overlook the question of national revenues."

Fleet of 1921.

Following will be the composition of the fleet in 1921, built or building, if the programme is carried out, according to the general board's calculations, the secretary says:

Table listing fleet composition: Battleships, first line (27), Battle cruisers (6), Battleships, second line (25), Armored cruisers (10), Scout cruisers (13), Cruisers, first class (5), Cruisers, second class (3), Cruisers, third class (10), Destroyers (108), Fleet submarines (18), Coast submarines (157), Monitors (6), Gunboats (20), Supply ships (4), Transports (4), Fuel ships (15), Tenders to torpedo vessels (3), Special types (8), Ammunition ships (2).

Read the Herald, \$1.50 per year.

PRESIDENT OF CONVENTION.

Baptists Choose Newberry for Meeting Place Next Year.

Greenville, December 14.—With the election of Major T. T. Hyde, of Charleston, as president, the Baptist convention adjourned its present annual session tonight at a late hour. The election of officers came as the last important matter. Major F. N. K. Bailey, of Greenwood, and C. B. Bobo, of Laurens, were the other candidates for president. The other officers elected were: Secretary, Dr. C. A. Jones; assistant secretary, the Rev. E. S. Reeves, of Honea Path; auditor, Jas. A. Hoyt, of Columbia; treasurer, C. B. Bobo, of Laurens; statistical secretary, the Rev. W. E. Wilkins, of Greenville.

The convention was considered one of the best ever held in the history of the church, as many matters of vital interest were disposed of. Newberry was chosen as the next meeting place.

Growing Black Cotton.

Arthur W. Brabham, the farmer of Bamberg county, S. C., who recently got his name in the papers through the claim that he is succeeding in growing cotton in all the shades of the spectrum, figures in The Manufacturers Record, J. Irby Koon undertaking to enlighten the public as to the progress being made at dyeing cotton as it grows in the boll. Brabham has been experimenting for several years. His chief objective, we are told by Mr. Koon, is to produce black cotton. "A distinctly bronzed tint has been realized by six years of systematic cross-fertilization of the Egyptian brown with the Russell big boll, a variety common to South Carolina plantations," says Mr. Koon. "Continuation of this plan, the Bamberg county plant breeder is confident, will bring the hybrid black, which he regards as the missing link in the basic colors of his cotton scheme." Brabham's plan of procedure is simple, but slow in ultimate attainment. "Early in the day," writes Mr. Koon, "when the blossom first opens wide, the pollen is shaken from the bloom of one variety into the bloom of another. The fertilized bloom is then tied up that bees may not infect. Though white the first day, the blooms turn pink and drops the following day, so that the operation is as brief as it is simple. The Egyptian cotton used as one basic stock is a brownish hue. The Russell big boll, on which it is crossed, enlarges the Egyptian boll and adds quality to the length of the fibre. The seed of the Russell also has a blanket wrapped about of exceedingly short, greenish, fuzzlike fibre. The elongation of this has had a distinct effect in producing the bronzed type of hybrid cotton." We are told that one large cotton factory in New England has an eye on Brabham's experiments, and is making elaborate tests with the Brabham cotton in the manufacture of mercerized goods. Brabham, who seems to be pretty much of a historian on cotton, is encouraged by the fact that even now four distinct tints are being grown in different parts of the world. He showed Mr. Koon samples of Chinese yellow cotton "grown from seed imported from the Far East. Flanking the fence parallel with the road by his home grew Egyptian brown of luxuriant growth, well fruited with shapely bolls, as if perfectly acclimated. He further emphasized that gray cotton is grown in India, varieties similar to the Egyptian in Peru and Hawaii and South America, and a reddish-hued cotton also in Peru." The Observer, always a patron of the sciences and the arts, is a firm believer in the coming of black cotton. Nature grows a perfectly black wool on the backs of sheep. What is to prevent her from growing black cotton in the fields of the South?—Charlotte Observer.

Shot Entering Store.

Jim Red, Ernest McGrier and Eugene Lipford, negroes, are under arrest charged with entering the store of W. T. Fuller, a merchant of Bradley, Greenwood county, and stealing goods therefrom. The store owner having missed goods on several occasions, set a gun at the door fixed in such a manner as to be discharged when the door was opened. At the time of the last robbery the gun was discharged but there was no evidence of the guilty parties. A rural policeman noticing the negro, Jim Red, limping several days later, became suspicious, and examining the negro's leg found four shots in it. Red then confessed that he had entered the store and had been shot and he also implicated the other two negroes.