

WEDGEFIELD NEWS

Matters of Interest in the Garden Spot of the County.

Wedgefield, S. C., March 12.—The rain on last Sunday was welcomed by all. It melted up soil and settled dust which has been very disagreeable the windy days we have been having. Corn planting has commenced. It seems early, but our planters have to take the same risk every year.

We regret to learn there was no insurance on the barns, stables and contents belonging to Mrs. R. R. Singleton, which were destroyed by fire some time ago.

There was some talk about the chain gang leaving here when they reached the railroad, but as soon as Mr. Seals reached here last Friday he was waited on by a committee and protests entered against his moving before working on through the town. I am glad to report he has decided to work on through.

The private telephone line of Messrs J. H. Aycock & Sons will be completed before the week is out. It is reviving interest in the long talked of line from here to Sumter, and we expect to see this line put up soon.

Capt. S. W. Wilson has moved his family to his home near Mayesville. They have been living near here for a good many years, and his move was generally regretted.

Mrs. B. G. Wheeler and children, of Rockwell, N. C., are spending some time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Bradford.

The proprietors of "The Hat," our military store, have recently repainted it inside, and with the decorations and display of new stock presents a very neat appearance.

Manchester Items.

Dark Corner, March 4, 1901.

Well, Mr. Editor, I will try and spend this noon hour in writing a line or two for the W. & S. We are having some beautiful weather—looks like spring yesterday and today. Farmers are pushing ahead with their work since the snow. I hear some speaking of planting corn this week, but I shall not start before next week. The acreage of cotton in this section will be about same as last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bartlette and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ardis, of Privater towaship, visited at Mr. W. J. Ardis' yesterday.

I had the pleasure of hearing Dr. J. A. Clifton's (of your city) lecture to the Clarendon High School on Washington's birthday, 22d ultimo. He is a good speaker, and one that we poor farmers can understand. Some things he said were very amusing, but yet very instructive, especially about there being so few good spellers at this day and time: The college graduate that hoped to get three (through) that year in his college and graduate, was a hard hit; also the young lady who wrote her sweetheart not to fail to meet her, was very rich in fun and created a great laugh from school and visitors.

Please do not show this to Dr. Clifton, for he will say he has found another niche, as I am speaking about spelling and never have been to school a day yet. But will not tell you how I learned to read and write, for I cannot (I do not know myself).

The day for the decoration of the soldiers' graves will soon be here, and I think it would be a good time to have a sort of reunion of all the old soldiers in the county in your city that day. What do you say to it, Mr. Editor? Let us hear from the old soldiers on that line, and the ladies who have the decoration in charge. Well, I must out to work, so good day. Sidra.

Dry Jim and the Schools.

Mr. Editor: As it has been so long since I have seen anything from this section, I will write something—don't know what it be until I finish.

We have nothing of interest more than is common all over the county. Farmers are very well up with their work. We have had so weather since the snow for farm work, and most of us made good use of it. Some, no doubt, are getting a little sick over the decline in the price of cotton. Some that refused 10 cents held on to their cotton and have sold for 8 cents. So I presume they are sick, and then the outlook for next fall is somewhat gloomy. But let us be cheerful, use all economy possible and not cross the bridge before we get to it.

We are having blistering weather, but it is no more than we can expect for March.

I noticed an article some time ago from Hagood on the common schools. I agree with him as far as he goes. But there is wonderful improvement that can and ought to be made. We need more money in the first place, and then our school districts are not properly laid off, they should be of a uniform size not more than six miles square at most and then a graded nine months school in centre of each district for the largest scholars so that none would be over three miles at the farthest. Continue the other schools as we do for the smaller children. I believe if we had such a plan as that the most of our country boys and girls could get a pretty fair education, that is if their parents were interested in their children's welfare, and those that are able to send their children to college would have them nearer prepared for college. We have a great many poor boys who, if they could get such a start as that, would manage some way themselves to finish their education that would make useful men to their day, and generation; all they need is a chance. But I believe the time is coming when we will have far better country schools than at present. Considerable improvement has been made in the last few years, and I hope for greater in the future. Another remedy I would like to suggest. At present the school trustees are appointed by the county board which I think is wrong. How do they know who are suitable men for the position? They are appointed and expected to serve without any compensation and that accounts for such poor service. If the trustees do their duty they ought to be paid for it. But as it is they only do what they are obliged to do, and that is as little as possible and all the pay they get is abuse.

Those that have never had the honorable office have no idea the worry and trouble it is, especially with the colored folks. I think that they should have their school matters to themselves. Give them their money, and let them have their own trustees of course, let the County Superintendent see after them. If that was the case they would have no room for complaint. If they saw fit to do so they could levy an extra tax for their schools.

But to return to our schools I think that our trustees should be elected by ballot, each district electing its own trustees for two years, and then pay them for their actual work, that is the time they are obliged to lose. Then I think it would be nothing but right to pay the clerk a little extra for keeping the books, &c.

The trustees do not do their duty from the fact that they cannot afford to lose so much time from their own business. I do not claim that they are entitled to much, but I do think that they ought to get enough to pay them for the time they are compelled to lose. Some of our schools give us no trouble at all, only to elect the teacher and sign their warrants for their pay, but all are not so. Some-time the children get to fighting and that causes the teacher to have to fight, and then somebody gets a little mad and think partially has been shown, which may some times be the case. And then again some of the patrons think the teachers are not doing their whole duty. Then complaint is made to the trustees. Their duty then is very unpleasant. They have to call a meeting of the board, and investigate the matter and settle it if possible, which is seldom done satisfactory to all parties.

Well I will stop. May write more in the future. Dry Jim
Ionia, S. C., March 11, 1901.

Editor's Awful Plight.

F. M. Higgins, Editor Seneca, (Ill.) News was afflicted for years with Piles that no doctor or remedy helped until he tried Bucklen's Arnica Salve. He writes two boxes wholly cured him. It's the surest Pile cure on earth and the best salve in the world. Cure guaranteed. Only 25 cents. Sold by J. F. W. DeLorme, Druggist.

THE TELEPHONE QUESTION.

"Subscriber" Gives Reasons for Opposing the New Company.

Mr. Editor: I have been thinking over the telephone matter now under consideration by the City Council, and the result of my cogitations has somewhat changed my opinion of the utility of another company. Of course my opinions are mine and no one's else, but it is possible the reasons which influenced the writer may influence others.

Unless the new company (if we have one) drives out the old one absolutely, the business men of Sumter will be at the expense of keeping two telephones instead of one. This is objection No. 1.

The telephone business in Sumter is not a success, I doubt if more than a reasonable profit can be made even with one company in the field. With two companies, the profit would be so small that the improvements in the service which we all desire and which we would have reason to expect, would be relegated to the "sweet bye and bye," and this is objection No. 2.

The company made a serious mistake in spending its income in extending its service instead of improving it, and I think the company is well aware of that mistake. I believe it will learn experience from the past, and give us the improvements which are needed and which the public demands.

With two companies I doubt if either could give improved service, and the expense of the customers would be doubled by having to pay for double service. Subscriber.

That Throbbing Headache.

Would quickly leave you, if you used Dr. King's New Life Pills. Thousands of sufferers have proved their matchless worth for Sick and Nervous Headaches. They make pure blood and strong Nerve and build up your health. Easy to take. Try them. Only 25 cents. Money back if not cured. Sold by J. F. W. DeLorme, Druggist.

HAGOOD HAPPENINGS.

Items of Interest—Personal Mention.

Hagood, S. C., March 6.—Robt. Atkinson has gone to the Mood infirmary for treatment. His many friends sincerely hope he will return soon, strong and well.

Just now there is considerable sickness in our community, mostly "grip," and the doctors are having their hands full.

The school of Miss Sadie Kennedy Barries will soon close, to the regret of her friends and patrons. She is a good and competent teacher, and well deserves the high esteem in which she is held.

Mr. G. W. Wingate and wife, who were quite sick a week ago, are able to be out again. Mr. Wingate came here from Marlboro and is a hustler.

The little girl of Rev. and Mrs. H. C. Bethea, the last of four children, is slowly recovering from a severe attack of infantile trouble.

Extensive forest fires have been raging in this community, some of which may be traced to the darkie and his ox. A bad time to trifle with fire.

I wonder if we are to escape the maddog panic this year. Last year they overran the county. Civic.

CLARENDON NEWS.

From the Manning Farmer. Miss Christine McKegen who has been visiting in Manning for several days has returned to Sumter.

Mr. A. Loryea and Miss Annie Loryea have been spending a few days with Mrs. J. E. Barnett at Mayesville.

Mrs. Mattie Burgess is in Sumter enjoying a several days visit.

Mrs. J. H. Rigby has returned from a visit to Mayesville.

Miss Julia Thornwell, of Fort Mill, has been visiting Miss Carrie Legz for several days. She is now spending awhile in the Salem section visiting friends where she taught school for a year.

Mr. James B. Jerrey, of Sumter, was in town yesterday.

Mr. W. W. Raffield, after a brief illness died at his home near Davis Station on the fourth instant. He was one of the old land marks of this county, and was highly respected in his community for his many admirable qualities. He was an aged man and enjoyed the distinction of having lived his whole life in the house in which he was born.

THE PRIZE AND FLAG DRILLS

A Fine Exhibition—Sergeant Fishburne Takes First Prize.

The drills last Thursday night at the Opera House by the young ladies and the Sumter Light Infantry were all that could be wished. A full house greeted them when the curtain arose.

The flag drill by sixteen young ladies was given first. They made a beautiful spectacle each being adorned in the national colors and carrying a large flag.

The drill consisted of quite a number of well executed and beautiful figures. Especially pretty were the star and the spiral movements. The final figure as the squad left the stage ended in a flutter of red, white and blue as each waived her flag, which made a grand display of our national colors. They received loud and continuous applause, calling them again to the stage to repeat the last part of their drill. It would be doing all an injustice to say that one did better than the rest. They all acquitted themselves with honor and did credit to their city. Especially handsome were the costumes worn, the skirts being of red, and the waists of blue and white. The following young ladies took part in the drill: Misses Rast, Lopez, Arcett, Summers, Keels, Osteen, Lucile and Edna Hugbison, LaMotte, Sanders, DuBose, Shuford, Gibson, Folsom, Yeaton and Kate Pollock.

The drill by the squad from the Sumter Light Infantry was a fine exhibition of proficiency in the handling of arms. The squad of twenty-one men were arranged in a semi-circle in the following order: Yeaton, J. Fishburne, Witherspoon, Bradford, Murray, Cummings, W. H. Pate, Jr., H. Pate, M. Sanders, Hoyt, Burgess, Bradley, Boyle, Barrett, Flowers, Moore, R. Sanders, Gaillard, Gillespie, Auld and Meise. Lieut. Fishburne who had charge of the drill, and the judges, Col. H. T. Thompson, of Columbia and Capt. William Keith, of Timmons-ville, stood within the semi-circle. Lieut. Fishburne gave the commands in a steady, distinct voice.

After a few minutes drilling a rest was taken and ten men were dropped to the rear. They were called out by their numbers. At the second rest four fell from the ranks, and at the next rest four more. There were only three men left, Messrs R. Sanders, Fishburne and Hoyt. Hoyt was dropped next, and for several minutes the two remaining gave a beautiful drill in the Manual of arms. Then the drill closed, the audience not knowing which of the two had won the first prize.

After a few minutes the entire squad reappeared on the stage and Lieut. Fishburne announced that the prize had been won as follows:

First, Sergeant John Fishburne; Second, R. D. Sanders; Third, Hugh Hoyt. The winners were called forward, and the following young ladies pinned on the medals in the order of the winners above given: Misses Jennie Gibson, Pauline Sanders and Gusete Keels.

Col. Thompson made a short complimentary speech to the young ladies and gentlemen, the only trouble being it was too short.

The Second Regiment Band furnished some excellent music which was enjoyed by all.

Altogether the performance was one of the most pleasant events ever undertaken in this city.

Much credit is due to Major H. F. Wilson, captain of the company, for the manner in which he has drilled his men. He made every effort to make the drill a success, and the drilling of both young ladies and gentlemen showed his careful attention to the matter. He should feel proud of his company, the Sumter Light Infantry.

The gold medal offered by Capt. Wilson for the best drilled man was presented to the winner of the first prize on Thursday night, Sergeant John Fishburne. This medal will remain the property of the winner, while the other three medals belong to the company and are drilled for every year.

POST OFFICE BUSINESS INCREASES.

The Need of Larger Quarters is Urgent.

The post office in this city is doing a very large business at this time. The business has increased in the past few months quite extraordinarily. Of course, this had to come as a result of the rapid growth of the city.

The lock boxes have long since been all taken up and there is need now for about fifty more. The present quarters of the office will not permit of any more boxes being put in. Again, the office is entirely too small for other reasons. While a mail is being opened, the people crowd into the outside room and it is uncomfortably packed. There should be another delivery window or a window for stamps, &c., separate from the general delivery window. Often, one has to wait to purchase stamps until a large number of persons have given their mail. This is, of course, quite inconvenient to all classes of persons. Taking all things into consideration, the present situation of the post office is not satisfactory. It might be suggested that the old quarters in the Masonic Temple would be a good place to remove to. This would still be near the business portion of the city and convenient to all.

Another thing, if our business men will patronize the post office more in forwarding money and helping to increase the business in every possible manner, the class will be raised and we can obtain a carrier system. No one doubts that this would be a great improvement in the city.

We hope the authorities will see the necessity of removing the office to larger and better quarters in the near future. Unless it is done, the people will soon suffer from the many inconveniences arising from insufficient postal regulations. The city is growing rapidly, both in population and in area, and the public offices, &c., must change to suit the occasion. We cannot have a large city and retain the present inconvenient public buildings, such as our post office and passenger depot as they are today.

When you are bilious, use those famous little pills known as DeWitt's Little Early Risers to cleanse the liver and bowels. They never gripe.—J. S. Hughs & Co.

Prisoner Escapes.

A prisoner in charge of guard M. K. McLeod escaped Thursday night. Very little is known of the incident. The prisoner, John Gilmore, colored, who was sentenced to the chain gang for petit larceny was turned over to the guard of the chain gang Thursday night. Next morning a white man named Moore was released from the gang, his time being out, and came to Sumter. He reported that the guard and his prisoner had not reached the camp when he left. Mr. McLeod reported the escape Friday morning when he reached Sumter. Some persons telephoned the Sheriff that he had seen a negro with handcuffs on one of the roads leading to the city. The whole thing seems rather strange and some one must have acted carelessly to the warden.

Gilmore was captured Friday afternoon near Swimming Pond and sent to the gang. Some one had filed the handcuffs off, of course.

Edmund R. Murray has fresh Fish Roe for sale at 5 cents per pair. Mar 9—If

GETS HIS DESSERTS.

Fakir Gets Too Fresh—Made to Leave Town.

A man named Stevens was in town for several days last week trying to sell a polish for cleaning furniture, brass, silverware, and quite a number of articles. He seems to have visited nearly every part of the city with his goods. If he had simply showed his goods or told what he had, all would have been well. The trouble was he became very talkative to the ladies when they refused to purchase his wares and made some rather impertinent and insulting remarks to some of them. Some of the gentlemen got hold of this and decided to give him a lesson that he would not forget soon.

Friday afternoon, some one was heard to give a scream in the rear of Reynolds' bicycle shop in the Masonic Temple. In a few minutes the man, Stevens, appeared on the sidewalk with a rather bloody face. Someone had given him a blow over the eye. It did not amount to much, however, for as soon as the blood had been washed off, his face appeared to be as good as it ever was. Quite a crowd gathered on the street and shortly matters were explained to the police. Stevens pulled out a long list of "testimonials," but the police declined to read them. It was decided that he should leave town, and accordingly he was given two hours to make his departure. He was carried to the depot by one of the officers and took the 5:35 train for Manning. He promised to return on Wednesday, but it is not known so far if he has done so.

The stomach controls the situation. Those who eat are hearty and strong are those who can eat and digest plenty of food. Kodol Dyspepsia Cure digests what you eat and allows you to eat all the good food you want. If you suffer from indigestion, heartburn, belching or any other stomach trouble, this preparation can't help but do you good. The most sensitive stomachs can take it.—J. S. Hughs & Co.

Every Family in the South Should Plant Pecan Trees

The pecan tree not only bears one of the most delicious nuts, but it is one of the most hardy trees that grows in the south, and makes as fine a shade tree as the elm or maple and no family ought to be without a few trees. I would pay the town authorities to do as the French authorities do, plant nut bearing trees on the sidewalks and get a revenue therefrom. A town that would this year put out a thousand trees on the side walks at comparatively small cost would, in ten years, get an annual return of at least \$500 and each year there would be an increase until the income would reach from three to five thousand dollars annually. Enough to more than pay all taxes of an ordinary sized town.

The trees do well planted in cotton and corn fields, and farmers can cultivate the lands in crops of corn and cotton until the trees get to bearing, and after they commence bearing a farmer with 10 or 20 acres has a small fortune in his pecan grove and don't need to plant cotton and corn. The trees hardy and stands the cold weather anywhere south of Maryland. At Pinebluff, N. C., there is a company that makes a specialty of growing the young trees for sale and we advise the town authorities, and all readers of our paper, to write the Pinebluff Grape & Pecan Company, Pinebluff, N. C., for circulars.

Saturday night the preacher who was holding forth at the street corner, cried out in a loud voice, "Repent." Someone concluded there was a fire and gave the alarm bringing out the fire department. Sunday night at 9:45 another alarm was sounded and the department responded quickly. No fire could be found, and the wagons were returned to the houses.

Mrs. C. E. VanDeusen, of Kilbourn, Wis., was afflicted with stomach trouble and constipation for a long time. She says, "I have tried many preparations but none have done me the good that Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets have." These Tablets are for sale at Dr. A. J. China's drug store. Price, 25 cents. Samples free.

Sumter's Home Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution held their February meeting last week. It was very pleasant and the society was found to be in a prosperous condition, applications for membership blanks being constantly received. The chapter has devoted some time this winter to the reading of sketches about Gen. Sumter, but at this meeting the principal topic was the discussion of the proceedings of the national congress D. A. R. held recently in Washington.

Gone to the Klondike.

The following item is taken from the "Lost Friends" column of the March Home and Farm: "James M. Dorn, of Bossard, S. C., aged 15, left his home on February 5 last, it is thought, for the Klondike. If he can be induced to return to his grief-stricken parents, they will receive him with great joy."

The Cotton Market Outlook.

The spot cotton market has been falling for several days. Thursday, it is said, one man brought thirty-three bales to this market, and could not obtain an offer of more than 8 20. Last week we heard of two large sales in another town, one lot comprising about eight hundred bales. So it appears that those who have been holding their cotton since fall, are beginning to sell now. No doubt a good deal of money has been lost by this holding of the crop. Of course last fall the manner in which the price was advancing made things look tempting to the man who was able to keep his cotton and be "bit" at it, so to speak. Today he is beginning to find that he was bitten himself.

Philadelphia, March 12.—The stockholders of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at their meeting today decided to vote on the question of increasing the capital stock of the company \$100,000,000, and to take a vote on the classification of the directors. The stock will be voted on these questions on Tuesday, March 26, when the annual election will be held. The capital stock is now \$151,700,000, and the increase will bring the total to \$251,700,000.

Memphis, Tenn., March 11.—A. M. Winn, a well known cotton broker, committed suicide yesterday afternoon by shooting himself through the heart while in a delirious state brought on by sickness.

NATIONS MAY MEET TO DISCUSS CANAL.

International Congress to Assemble in Washington Suggested.

Washington, March 12.—No step has been taken by either side since the delivery of the British note treating of the senate amendments to the Hay Pauncefote treaty, and it is understood none will be taken in the immediate future. The treaty expired March 5 and it is stated positively that at this moment our government is undecided as to whether or not it shall attempt or not to draw a new treaty with Great Britain. It is said that before anything of this kind is done the administration will take steps to learn the views of senators and the party leaders in congress. There will be no treaty submitted to the senate except upon a pretty clear understanding that it is strong enough to secure the vote of two-thirds of the body. It is said at the state department that the British communication submitted yesterday will not be given out for publication for the present.

A suggestion was made today that an international congress to be held at Washington might prove the best means of harmonizing the differences and bring about a common ground of understanding. Such a congress, it was pointed out, was held to deal with the Suez canal problem, and out of it grew the Suez convention, which controls the usage of that waterway. There is reason to believe that the project of an international congress at Washington would meet with favor from several of the European maritime powers, which have not up to this time taken a prominent part in canal affairs. On the other hand, the idea of a congress met some opposition when informally suggested today to diplomats who have taken a leading part in the canal negotiations.

THE BRITISH AND THE RUSSIANS CRASH.

London, March 13, 4 30 a. m.—Friction has arisen at Tien Tsin between the British and the Russians over a piece of land alleged to belong to the railway company and to have been in possession of the company for some years.

BRITISH OCCUPIED RAILROAD BY FORCE, HAVING SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

According to dispatches from Tien Tsin, the Russians assert that this land is part of their new concession and, therefore, Russian property. The manager of the railway, Mr. Kinder, had begun to make a siding, but was stopped by the Russian envoys. He appealed to Col. Macdonald, who referred the matter to Gen. Barrow, British chief of staff in Pekin, who replied: "Carry on the siding with an armed force if necessary."

TO RELIEVE THE CLOTH MARKET.

Fall River, Mass., March 12.—Manufacturers are being urged to come into the agreement to curtail production suggested by the selling committee of this city, to relieve the cotton cloth market.

The committee proposes, if possible, to bring about a curtailment of 60 days duration in each factory some time between the 1st of April and the 1st of August. The committee says that they can control about 1,350,000 spindles and require about 600,000 more to make the plan binding.

McRae, Ga., March 12.—The headless trunk of a man was found in the Ocmulgee river, on the lower point of Oaky bluff, near here, where it had drifted during the recent high water.

There is little doubt that the man has been murdered, as the head was apparently severed from the body by an axe, and there are wounds in the chest and abdomen which were inflicted with an axe. The body has apparently been in the water for about two months, and there is nothing about it which gives a clue to the identity.

A Quaint Introduction.

On one occasion the dean of Wells in introducing E. A. Freeman, whom he could abide neither as man nor historian, said: "I rise with great pleasure to propose the health of our eminent neighbor, Mr. Freeman, the historian, a man who, in his own personal characteristics, has so often depicted for us the savage character of our first forefathers."

London, March 11.—The St. James Gazette says that according to representations received from The Hague, the Roumanian police have been instructed to watch certain persons at Jassy, who are suspected of being engaged in a conspiracy against the lives of Queen Wilhelmina and her husband.

NEWS ITEMS.

The government is successful with its wireless telegraphy between Hatteras and Roanoke.

A reform ballot bill in the Maryland legislature, if passed, disfranchises 50,000 ignorant voters, mostly negroes.

New York consumes in a day 4,000,000 eggs.

Another rich gold find has been located in Alaska.

During last year 25,132 Irish immigrants arrived in this country.

A lumber syndicate is going to build a town near Pensacola, Fla., somewhat like Pullman, Ill.

London, March 12.—Lord Pauncefote, the British ambassador at Washington, has been appointed a member of the privy council.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS.

Hopeful of Gen. Botha's Surrender Tomorrow.

London, March 12, 4 50 p. m.—A report is current that the government anticipate a speedy announcement of the surrender of Gen. Botha, the Boer commander in chief.

Inquiries made at the war office show the officials there have received no recent news of the surrender negotiations. They think the armistice expires March 14 and are inclined to believe Gen. Botha will surrender, but the officials are doubtful in regard to the other Boer commanders in the field.

WHEREABOUTS OF DEWET.

London, March 12.—A dispatch from Gen. Kitchener, dated Pretoria, March 12, says Gen. DeWet is north of Brandfort, Orange River Colony. Continuous rains have interfered with the movement of the troops in Cape Colony. Two bands of Boers are being hunted among the hills by troops under Gorringo, DeLisle, Grenfell and Henniker.

PILCHER'S COMMAND ACTIVE.

Bloemfontein, March 12.—Colonel Pilcher's column has cleared the country of Boers between this place and the Orange River. The column has arrived here, bringing in 33 prisoners and 3,000 horses.

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