

The Watchman and Southeron.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1902.

The *Sumter Watchman* was founded in 1850 and the *True Southeron* in 1836. The *Watchman and Southeron* now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter county.

The redistricting bill, as it passed the Senate, is a slight improvement on the House bill, but the arrangement of the districts is not as logical nor as acceptable to the people of this section of the State as that proposed in the Freeman bill. In this matter, as in a majority of the questions brought up for action in the Legislature, politics and the personal interests of legislators and their friends had more to do with determining the result than the needs of the whole people and the real merit of the measures proposed. Sumter county has never received much consideration in the formation of Congressional districts, and we have become accustomed to accepting the situation philosophically.

The Ways and Means Committee of the National House of Representatives has reported in favor of repealing all the revenue taxes imposed at the outbreak of the Spanish war, which will reduce the revenues by \$77,000,000 a year. The N. Y. Outlook says of this repeal bill:

"Nine million dollars of this reduction will be obtained by the removal of the tax on tea—a tax which every body, one might think, would wish to see go. There was, however, a strong remonstrance against its removal from a few tea merchants, who claimed that the tax did not raise the price of tea, but who only convinced the public that the tax did not rest upon the importers. It was charged that these importers desired the tariff on tea to be maintained because it kept the business in fewer hands. Aside from this handful of people, however, the removal of the tea tax gives universal satisfaction. The other taxes removed, on the other hand, are, as a rule, the very taxes which ought to be retained. The war tax on beer is abolished, and also the taxes on stock exchange and bucket-shop transactions, and the taxes on inheritances. When the war tax bill was drafted, we remarked that it was the best tax bill, from the standpoint of the public interests, that had been framed by our Congress in a generation. Not one dollar of its revenues went to enrich favored private interests. Every dollar collected from the public went into the public treasury. In addition to this, the burdens imposed, apart from those of the tea tax, fell upon the wealthier classes, or, if upon the poor, only when they purchased luxuries. The tax on beer was of the latter class, while the progress tax upon large inheritances was most wisely framed to compel the richer classes to pay more nearly their just share of the National taxes. But all these taxes are swept away, while the taxes on sugar and rice, wool and hides, farm implements and household utensils, are all retained, because the proceeds of these taxes on food and clothing and other common necessities of the people do not go exclusively into the public treasury, but go in part to enrich powerful private interests, which lobby against their repeal. And there is good ground for the suspicion that this method of tax reduction is hurried forward in order to forestall and prevent any relief for imperiled Cuba."

Congressman Lever writes under date of February 8th, in reference to the visit of Prof. Spillman, the grass and forage crop specialist of the Agricultural Department, to the county:

"I have succeeded in getting the Agricultural Department to send a specialist in grasses and forage crops to our district with a view of investigating the adaptability of our soil to the growing of alfalfa and other forage crops. It is important that we work up an interest in the matter preparatory to an extended investigation by the department. I want to enlist your interest in this matter and the influence of your paper. Prof. Spillman, the Specialist of the Department, will call on you some time in the near future, and he will give you the scope of his work. I trust you will co-operate with him and help him arouse the people to the magnitude of the grass question. You will find him intensely in earnest, and specially anxious to investigate our sand lands. Give him the names of representative farmers, and introduce him to different men in your town, who may take an interest in this matter."

We shall be glad to have the names of farmers who are willing to co-operate with Prof. Spillman and lend him their assistance in making the investigation contemplated.

We have received from the South Carolina Chickamauga Commission a copy of the "Ceremonies at the Unveiling of the South Carolina Monument on the Chickamauga Battlefield, May 27th, 1901." It is a handsomely printed pamphlet of fifty pages, and for the valuable historic material embodied in the several addresses deliv-

ered by distinguished speakers at the unveiling is worthy of preservation. Anyone who may desire a copy can obtain it by applying to the E. H. Aull Publishing Company, Newberry, S. C., enclosing a two-cent stamp to pay postage.

The Legislature has killed several bills that should have become laws, notably the child labor bill and the compulsory education bill.

As a rule a member of the Legislature spends his first year as a law maker trying to learn the ropes, and the second in pulling wire for re-election.

To the General Assembly.

As a member of the house of representatives of the general assembly, I wish to call your undivided attention to the bill for the formation of Lee county which was unanimously passed by the house, and met with a favorable report from the committee of the senate, gentlemen of the senate, I am officially informed that certain amendments of that bill is to be proposed to your honorable body, which will again throw us into the courts in formation of Lee county if admitted. We the citizens and registered voters within the limits of the said proposed Lee county, by a survey for territory for the formation of new counties in and by the contribution therein provided, did by careful survey make application to his excellency, Gov. McSweeney to order an election for said new county of Lee, and declared in said election by a large two-third majority their desire for the formation of Lee county and having complied with all the requirements of law and constitution, I trust that you will grant the passage of said bill without amendment. Having consulted high legal talent, I was told that the act was all correct.
D. E. Durant.

A Combined Movement of Numerous British Columns.

London, Feb. 9.—From Wolychock, Lord Kitchener today telegraphed a long description of a combined movement of numerous British columns with the object of securing Gen. DeWet.

Lord Kitchener says the advance began the night of Feb. 5, the whole force moving from various directions and forming a continuous line of mounted men on the west bank of the Liebnbergs vlet from Frankfort as far south as Fannysome and thence to Kaffir Kop. The line then advanced to the west and the following night the British entrenched with their outposts 50 yards apart. They held the line from Holland, on the Heilbron-Frankfort blockhouse line, to Doornloof on the Kroonstadt-Lindley blockhouse line while the columns were also working in advance of the blockhouse lines to prevent DeWet's crossing. The advance was continued Feb. 6 and DeWet was within the inclosure, but realizing his position he ordered his men to disperse and seek safety during the night. DeWet himself with some men and a number of cattle made for the Kroonstadt-Lindley blockhouse line, and at 1 o'clock in the morning when it was very dark, by rushing his cattle at the fence, broke his way through the line, mixed up with the cattle and lost three men killed.

Many attempts were made to break through the line on the night of Feb. 7, reports Lord Kitchener, the line of outposts being attacked at various places throughout the night. But very few escaped, and 10 dead Boers were picked up in the morning near Heilbron.

"I did not get exact details of the Boer casualties," continues Lord Kitchener, "but as far as I have ascertained, they consist of 263 in killed, wounded and prisoners, as well as about 700 tired horses and many cattle."

"Our casualties were only 10." Lord Kitchener's great plan which he has been elaborating for months past, failed by the escape of DeWet but was successful in the greatest single capture of Boers since Lord Kitchener arrived in South Africa.

Altogether 23 columns were employed in an immense irregular parallelogram by the lines of block houses and the railroads between Wolwehoek-Frankfort, Lindley and Kroonstadt. It is estimated that DeWet's forces amounted roughly speaking to 2,000 men. Lord Kitchener personally superintended the final preparations for the expedition and the great move was made over a front of forty miles, the advance extending 60 miles, with the object of driving the Boers against the railroad line where armored trains are patrolling and were repeatedly in action shelling the Boers to prevent their crossing the railroad. DeWet succeeded in slipping through the lines to the southward. The whereabouts of Mr. Steyn is unknown, though one report says he is with DeWet.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Unless there shall be a decided change for her better in the condition of the president's son before the end of the present week it is probable that Prince Henry of Prussia may be impelled to defer his proposed visit to the United States until later in the year.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Redistricting Bill Passes the Senate—Only One Slight Change From Bill as it Passed the House.

Columbia, Feb. 11.—There was a long and at times exciting debate in the senate today over the redistricting bill. The measure, as it passed the house, finally passed its second reading in the senate, with the single amendment that Clarendon is taken from the seventh district and placed in the first district. It is thought that this amendment will be agreed to by the house and that the bill will be ratified in this shape.

At 10:25 the special order of the day, Mr. McGowan's bill "to establish congressional districts and name the same," was reached.

Senator Gruber offered an amendment to substitute Orangeburg for Colleton in the First district; Colleton for Edgefield and Saluda in the Second district; and Edgefield and Saluda for Orangeburg in the Seventh district. This proposed amendment affected only the first, second and seventh districts as the bill came from the house, but after a long debate the amendment was lost.

Senator Manning opposed the amendment. It will not make any more compact or more homogeneous districts; it will put people who have no interests in common into the same district.

Senator Sheppard again spoke in opposition to the amendment, which would put Edgefield and Clarendon in the same district. It would take longer to go from Edgefield to Clarendon than from Edgefield to New York. He moved to lay Senator Gruber's amendment on the table. The vote stood 22 to 17, and the amendment was lost.

Senator Manning then offered as a substitute for the house bill what is known as the Freeman substitute bill. The terms of this bill have already been published in The State. It makes a radical change from the house bill. Senator Manning called attention to the fact that it arranges the districts more nearly equal in regard to population and size than any other plan, that the grouping of the districts is more homogeneous than any other plan yet offered.

Senator Sharp moved to lay Senator Manning's amendment—the Freeman substitute—on the table. The vote was 24 to 15, and the amendment was laid on the table.

When Senator Mayfield undertook to have Edgefield and Saluda placed in separate districts. This brought forth a spirited protest from Senator Sheppard, who carried his point, and Edgefield and Saluda remain side by side in the second district.

The redistricting bill, as it passed the senate yesterday, arranges the congressional districts as follows:

- First District—Charleston, Berkeley, Colleton, Clarendon and Dorchester.
- Second District—Aiken, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Edgefield, Saluda and Hampton.
- Third District—Pickens, Oconee, Anderson, Abbeville, Greenwood and Newberry.
- Fourth District—Laurens, Spartanburg, Greenville and Union.
- Fifth District—Cherokee, Chester, York, Fairfield, Kershaw, Chesterfield and Lancaster.
- Sixth District—Marlboro, Marion, Horry, Darlington, Florence, Williamsburg and Georgetown.
- Seventh District—Richland, Sumter, Orangeburg and Lexington.

Bold Bank Robbery.

Acworth, Ga., Feb. 9.—Safe blowers forced the vaults of the Lemon Banking company here early this morning, securing \$5,000 in gold, a Georgia State bond and a large amount of stock certificates. Between \$45,000 and \$50,000 in notes, stock certificates and bonds were hopelessly mutilated by the explosion and much currency and small bills destroyed. A box filled with \$20 gold pieces escaped the notice of the robbers. The robbers had to blow through four protections to reach the money.

A NEW BUILDING & LOAN ASSOCIATION

In view of the fact that the Citizens Building and Loan Association will in the course of a few months wind up its affairs, a New Building and Loan Association is being organized. This Association will be conducted upon the same general plan as the "Citizens" and the "Equitable," that is, each stock-holder will be required to borrow the money in his turn, provided same cannot be sold in the usual way. An association of one thousand shares, conducted on this plan will pay its stock-holders \$150.00 on each share in 100 months; that is, each stock-holder for \$100.00 paid in will receive \$150.00 in 100 months; this will represent 6 per cent on \$100.00 for 100 months the entire time, or 12 per cent for 50 months the average time.

Books of subscription are open at the office of H. F. Wilson, and also at the office of L. D. Jennings, Esq.

Anyone desiring to subscribe stock in the new Association can call at either place and do so. Each share represents \$200 payable \$1.00 per month.

H. FRANK WILSON.
Feb. 11—2tw—1m (W. 1 m)

PISGAH NEWS NOTES.

Pisgah, Feb. 11.—There has been some oats planted over in this section. The prospect here for a crop is the poorest for years.

The bad weather, rainy and cold for the last two weeks has brought the usual crop of colds, coughs and grippe.

A good many are sick at present. It is a wonder more do not die than do from exposure, especially when their clothing is not as good and warm as it should be. Our hardest cold seems to come after Christmas of late years.

A rural free mail service is being agitated here, to commence at Remberts Post office and run by the Pisgah, and Brown Post offices. An agent of the government will soon be here to look over the route.

I hear of no good man having any difficulty in getting advances this year. When one door is closed, another is wide open to them. The renters are not succeeding in getting help and the landlords are not waiving their rents. So the prospect for them is rather gloomy.

A good deal of guano is being hauled, though it will not be used as extensively as last year.

Hands are getting scarce here. If they keep on going as they have for the last two years, there will be none left for the farmers. A kind of labor contract has been in use here for sometime, something like those in Anderson County. A minor or some other person, wants a little credit. They sign a labor contract not to move without permission, or not more than a mile and a half, work at 15 or 20 cents per day in discharge of the debt bought at palace prices, &c. Then these contracts are transferable: one party buys a negro at so much and works the debt out. Sometimes five or six persons have claims on one darkey and as he can't pay all, he takes to the woods. That is the cause in part of so many leaving. I am informed that they are used as collateral for lien debts a kind of mortgage or bill of sale on oneself. It is amusing to read one. I have never heard of one being enforced. Of course they are not worth legally the paper they are written on, for nobody but a fool would admit that a man has the right to mortgage himself to secure a debt as he would a piece of property. He might do so but enforcing the mortgage would be the fun, but then we have wise "Alecks" these days who want to subordinate law, or constitutional rights, to meet their ends, even if they practice bull dosing methods to do the same with the ignorant.

The survey, and re-survey, of Lee County at this place, are a mile and a half apart, where they cross the Columbia road which runs by Pisgah Church. The re-survey turned at the stake in Bradley's field and went due North which is in the bill, and in Spring Hill Township. Lee County went on further into Rafting Creek, but gives no boundaries. There is a mistake somewhere.

The legislature made no mistake when it elected Hon. R. O. Purdy to the Judgeship, and I could say the same if Mr. Fraser had been elected.

The death of Capt. Pierson leaves the County Board of Equalization again without a Chairman. Two dying in one year.

The campaign will soon open and I trust that all candidates will advocate their claims for office on their merits and not on some popular chord as the "old soldiers," that was so extensively done in the last campaign. We all love the old fellows and the State is right in doing all she can for them. A statesman will try to elevate people to his line of thought, but a politician will pander to the lowest wishes of a people, knowing them to be wrong, in order to be popular, and get votes. Hon. T. B. Fraser made his canvass for the legislature against a most popular measure, the dispensary, but he was sincere and honest in his belief and he got there all the same.

Congressmen Lever, and Feely of Chicago, are the "babies" of the House. Lever is 27 and Feely 26 years old, while Grow of Pennsylvania is the "daddy," 84 years old.

FOR SALE—A limited quantity of King Cotton Seed. Apply to W. B. Boyle Oct 9—1f

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