

The *Sumter Watchman* was founded in 1850 and the *True Southron* in 1866. The *Watchman and Southron* now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

REVIEW AND COMMENT.

What the General Assembly Did and Failed to Do.

A Total of 237 Acts, of Which Most Refer to Local Matters—Biennial Sessions—Work of Tax Commission—Thrown Away, as to Four-fifths of It.

Columbia, Feb. 22.—There was nothing of an especially distinguished character about the General Assembly of 1904, which has just adjourned. It did its work well and was disposed to do the right thing wherever possible. There was no evidence of hostility towards anybody or anything, and altogether the Legislators, who have finished their two years of labor, have done as well as they could.

The make-up of the General Assembly is not as good as it ought to be. The primary system has not tended to bring the best men to the front for these positions. It is, of course, quite true that there are very many high-toned, honorable and capable men in the General Assembly, but what I mean to say is that as a rule, men who have a great deal of business at home and who are indifferent to public honors do not care to enter into a scramble for a position in the General Assembly. It is unfortunately regarded as of too little honor and importance. This is altogether wrong, and it is certainly to be hoped that there will be some concert of action in the various counties to get successful men, men who have property interests, men who represent something and somebody, to run for the General Assembly and to keep out freaks and representatives who do no honor to their counties nor to their State.

In the list of ratified Acts that is published in *The News and Courier* it will be seen that there were 237 propositions that received favorable consideration. Of this number a very large proportion relate entirely to local affairs; in fact, more than a third of all of the bills passed are to be put under the headings of claims of purely private nature, bills to provide for bond issues for school purposes, and amendments to present statutes, increasing or lowering the salaries of some county officers. As a matter of fact, the barest fractional part of all the legislation this year was of a general character.

There is, of course, a difference of opinion as to what legislation is of most general importance and consequence. There can be no doubt, however, that the most important and far-reaching action was that looking towards biennial, instead of annual, sessions of the General Assembly. It is a very difficult matter with the constitutional restrictions, to accomplish the passage of a resolution looking towards any amendment to the Constitution, but the necessary legislation has been enacted by which the people will, next November, have the opportunity of deciding whether or not they wish the Constitution amended so as to provide for sessions of the General Assembly every two years instead of every year.

Next in importance to this is probably the passage of the bill looking towards the establishment of a department of immigration. It is reasonably expected that this department will bring about good results. The idea is not a new one, but the State has gone into the matter in earnest and, with a competent commissioner, there is every reason to expect good results and an influx of new blood.

There were great things to be expected from the tax commission appointed at the recent session of the General Assembly. The State of South Carolina has not been, and is not, operating upon a cash basis, and the commission was appointed for the purpose of suggesting plans by which the State would get out of debt and continue to operate on a cash basis. The tax commission did its work well, but the General Assembly did not go any further than to pass what is known as the franchise tax bill and stop there. The tax commission was sincere in proposing a series of five bills and it is, perhaps, unfortunate for the State that the General Assembly should have picked out the one bill that was directed against corporate interests and passed it. It is expected that this franchise tax bill will raise about \$100,000, but, with the complement franchise tax bill proposed by the tax commission the State would easily have had plenty of funds; but, unfortunately, the proposition to make the corporations pay whatever tribute was to be paid became law and the scheme stops there.

Outside of this franchise tax bill there was no legislation that might be called antagonistic to corporations, un-

less the bill which places the telephone companies under the jurisdiction of the railroad commission is to be so regarded, and there seems to be no particular objection to this measure.

Quite a number of bills were passed relative to the railroad interests of South Carolina, but the only bills that will become laws that will in any way affect the railroad interests are: First, the bill to require the railroads to transport baby carriages free as baggage; second the bill to require the hauling of 200 pounds of baggage free; third, the Cogshall bill, which places a time limit for the delivery of freight in this State; fourth the bill to allow family use of mileage books. Of course there were a whole string of bills proposed, but out of all of them these were all that passed of concern to the railroads.

There were quite a number of measures proposed relative to cotton mill interests, but there was no disposition to affect injuriously the cotton mill interests of the State, and if there had been any proposition which would have given encouragement to them it would probably have passed. Among the measures killed that were regarded as being against cotton mill interests were the McMaster liability bill, the Davis seat bill, the Johnson anti-strike bill, the Toole ten-hour labor law measure, and some others more remotely connected with this large interest. The only bill that was passed that could in any way be regarded as affecting injuriously the cotton mill interest was that of Mr. Irby, which provided for the redemption of checks issued to employees. It is understood that most cotton mills do not use this check system, but pay in cash every two weeks.

The dispensary had everything its own way this time. The only bill passed that in any way affects the dispensary situation is the bill to which is attached the name of Senator Brice. It is not his bill as it was passed. The dispensary forces managed to have the bill amended so as to suit them in every way and the law, as it will go on the statute books, is not what Mr. Brice wished for, but is rather in line with the policy of the dispensary, which is that if any community does not want a dispensary that it will have to pay for that privilege. In other words, the bill provides that a community can vote an established dispensary out of its limits, but if it does so it must at the same time provide for a tax of one-half of one mill upon all of the property in the county for the purpose of maintaining a force to see that the dispensary law is enforced in that county, and at the same time it must forego the advantages of getting any portion of the surplus fund for its schools that would ordinarily go to them from the dispensary profits. The law says that a county can get rid of a dispensary if its people vote to that effect. But it must at the same time provide annually by direct taxation a fund for whatever expenses might be imposed in the enforcement of the law, and also be deprived of its share of the surplus school fund from the dispensary.

Quite a number of new crimes, so to speak, were created by the General Assembly this year. For instance, it was made a crime to operate gambling slot machines; to improperly brand foods; to give false names to horses that entered races, and to ship shad, oysters and clams out of the State, and to decline to fill unused wells. Of course, the General Assembly had to do something and it was just as well to take a rap at the slot machines and the filing of horses' teeth and the filling of wells as anything else.

This General Assembly has certainly broken a record, in that it has passed a law that provides for a capitation tax of fifty cents on dogs. As long as Citizen Josh Ashley remained in the General Assembly the "yaller dog" was safe, but now that he is in private life the "yaller dog" seems to be getting it, and if this law of providing a fifty-cent tax upon each and every dog in the State is enforced, as it ought to be, it should result in a great deal of good in eliminating worthless curs and at the same time in raising a fund for educational purposes.

The jar of the session was incident to the State House work. It seems to be very much of a mess and I will not undertake to justify or criticize anyone. There have already been columns printed on the subject. Unfortunately there seems to be a great deal of feeling about it.

The General Assembly, in the last days of the session, voted \$45,000 with which to complete the building, and it is certainly to be hoped that with this money the building will really be completed.

The disposition in the House this year was very favorable to education in every way. A bill was passed providing for a system of free libraries and it was based upon the proper theory of helping those who are willing to help themselves. The State will give \$5,000 this year for these new rural libraries and each year \$5,000 will be distributed towards that purpose.—*News and Courier.*

Claremont Lodge, No. 64, A. F. M. will meet at 8 o'clock this evening. The annual banquet will be held at the Hotel Jackson immediately after the meeting of the Lodge.

PANAMA TREATY RATIFIED.

End of a Long Contest in the United States Senate.

Washington, Feb. 23.—The United States Senate has ratified, without amendment, the treaty with Panama for a canal across the Isthmus of Panama by a vote of 66 to 14.

The result was a foregone conclusion and the interest in the matter was in the division of the vote on the Democratic side, which was not definitely known until the roll was called. As was expected, all the Republicans voted for the ratification or were paired that way. Three Republicans, who were absent, and Senator Foster, of Washington, were those who did not vote.

Fourteen Democrats voted for ratification and fourteen against. Two Democrats—Clark, of Montana, and Stone, of Missouri—were paired in favor of the treaty, and three Democrats—Overman, McLaurin and Martin—were paired against it, so in the total vote sixteen Democrats were for the treaty and seventeen against it.

The vote on the ratification of the treaty follows:

Yeas—Aldrich, Alger, Allee, Allison, Ankeny, Bacon, Ball, Bard, Berry, Beveridge, Burnham, Burrows, Clapp, Clark, of Wyoming, Clarke of Arkansas, Clay, Cockrell, Cullom, Depew, Dietrich, Dillingham, Dooliver, Dryden, Elkins, Fairbanks, Foraker, Foster of Louisiana, Frye, Fulton, Gallinger, Gable, Gibson, Hale, Hansbrough, Heyburn, Hoar, Hopkins, Kean, Kearns, Kittredge, Latimer, Lodge, Long, McComas, McCrea, McCumber, McEnery, Mallory, Millard, Mitchell, Money, Nelson, Penrose, Perkins, Platt of Connecticut, Platt of New York, Proctor, Charles, Scott, Simmons, Smoot, Spooner, Stewart, Taliaferro, Warren, Wetmore—66.

Nays—Bailey, Bate, Blackburn, Carmack, Culberson, Daniel, Dubois, Gorman, Morgan, Newlands, Patterson, Pettus, Teller, Tillman—14.

RUSSIA INDICTS JAPAN.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23.—Foreign Minister Lamsdorff sent the following circular yesterday to Russian representatives abroad:

"Since the rupture of the negotiations between Russia and Japan the attitude of the Tokio Cabinet has constituted open violation of all customary laws governing the mutual relations of civilized nations. Without specifying each particular violation of these laws on the part of Japan, the Imperial Government considers it necessary to draw the most serious attention of the Powers to the acts of violence committed by the Japanese Government with respect to Corea. The independence and integrity of Corea, as a fully independent Empire, has been fully recognized by all the powers, and the inviolability of this fundamental principle was confirmed by Article 1 of the Simoneski treaty, and by the agreement especially concluded for this purpose between Japan and Great Britain on January 30, 1902, as well as by the Franco-Russian declaration of March 16, 1902.

"The Emperor of Corea foreseeing the danger of a possible conflict between Russia and Japan, addressed early in January, 1904, a note to all the Powers, declaring his determination to preserve the strictest neutrality. This declaration was received with satisfaction by the Powers, and it was ratified by Russia. According to the Russian minister to Corea, the British Government charged the British diplomatic representative at Seoul to present an official note to the Emperor of Corea, thanking him for his declaration of neutrality.

"In disregard of all these facts; in spite of all treaties; in spite of its obligations, and in violation of the fundamental rules of international law, it has been proved by exact and fully confirmed facts that the Japanese Government first before the opening of hostilities against Russia landed its troops in the independent Empire of Corea, which had declared its neutrality; second, with a division of its fleet, it made a sudden attack, on February 8; that is, three days prior to the declaration of war, on two Russian war ships in the neutral port of Chemulpo. The commanders of these ships had not been notified of the severance of diplomatic relations, as the Japanese maliciously stopped the delivery of Russian telegrams by the Danish cable, and destroyed the telegraphic communication of the Korean Government. The details of this dastardly attack are contained and published in an official telegram from the Russian minister at Seoul.

"Third, in spite of the international law above mentioned, and shortly before the opening of hostilities, the Japanese captured, as a prize of war, certain Russian merchant ships in neutral ports of Corea.

"Fourth, Japan declared to the Emperor of Corea, through the Japanese minister at Seoul, that Corea would henceforth be under Japanese administration, and she warned the Emperor that in case of his non-compliance, Japanese troops would occupy the palace.

"Fifth, through the French minister

at Seoul, she summoned the Russian representative at the Korean Court, to leave the country, with the staffs of the Russian legation and consulate.

"Recognizing that all the above facts constitute a flagrant breach of international law, the Imperial Government considers it to be its duty to lodge a protest with all the Powers against this procedure of the Japanese Government, and it is firmly conceived that all the Powers, valuing the principles which guarantee their relations, will agree with the Russian attitude. At the same time the Imperial Government considers it necessary to issue a timely warning that owing to Japan's illegal assumption of Power in Corea, the Government declares all orders and declarations which may be issued on the part of the Korean Government to be invalid."

RUSSIA WILL BIDE HER TIME.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23.—"The war will end in August or September in the complete defeat of the Japanese," said to *The Associated Press* a high authority in intimate touch with the Russian war plans, whose opinion can be taken faithfully to reflect the belief in the highest official quarters. He added:

"How the Japanese can hope to succeed when our army in the east is strengthened to a point equal or superior in numbers to that of our adversaries we are honestly unable to comprehend. It will not be difficult to place two, four or even six hundred thousand additional men in the field, if necessary. When our forces are concentrated and ready they will finish by driving the Japanese into the sea. Frankly, it seems to us that the Japanese either have utterly failed to appreciate Russia's resources, or have counted on the aid of Great Britain or the United States, neither of which ever contemplated becoming involved. So far as Great Britain is concerned we don't believe any hallucinations existed there. We think the British statesmen who did so much to push Japanese into war, realized that with Japan's defeat they would accomplish two things for Great Britain—first, to give Russia a check—for of course, the war must impede our progress temporarily; secondly, to cripple Japan's maritime power, which was beginning to be greatly felt in the Pacific."

It can be said with the utmost positiveness that Russia will bide her time. She will act on the defensive until she feels confident that her weight of numbers will leave no doubt as to the result. Reinforcements are going forward at the rate of 3,000 per day. Probably some time will elapse before Russia feels fully prepared to assume the offensive.

JAPANESE OFFICERS HANGED.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 23.—The Japanese who were hanged by Russians in Manchuria for attempting to blow up the railroad bridge over the Sungari river, were disguised as coolies. They were arrested just as they were about to make the attempt. Inquiry revealed that they were Japanese officers of the general staff, namely, Col. Assia, of the engineers, and Lieuts. Zoneloaischa and Kaeurta, of the Sappers. They were at once hanged from the girders of the bridge.

Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 23.—A special from Asheville, N. C., says: "A telephone message from Calf Creek, Madison county, tells of a tragedy which occurred there last night. It is said that a young man named Hensley eloped with the daughter of Tom Kess; that Kess sent word to the young folks to return to his home, and upon their return last evening he drew his pistol and shot his daughter, inflicting injuries that will prove fatal. After Kess had shot his daughter the young bridegroom wrenched the pistol from Kess' hand, and shot his father-in-law dead."

The strike of the A. C. L. section masters and trackmen is said to have been a failure and that a majority of the strikers have gone back to work.

The labor unions have invaded Sumter and within the past few weeks the electrical workers, carpenters and brickmasons have organized unions, and other trades are expected to organize at an early day. The negro mechanics as well as the whites have been organized, there being separate and distinct unions for whites and colored. It is stated that the unions have been organized not for the purpose of disturbing the labor situation here, but to improve the conditions of the laboring men. Those most active in promoting the organization of the unions say that there is no probability of a strike here in the near future, although conditions are not as satisfactory as the unions desire, but that for the present all their energies are directed to the perfection and extension of their organizations.

The Sumter Telephone Co. has served notice on subscribers of an increase in telephone rent to take effect March 1st. Naturally the users of telephones do not take kindly to this increase of rates, but they will have to submit, since the new rates do not exceed—only equal—the maximum rate permitted by the franchise granted by the City Council.

A MURDEROUS ASSAULT.

Bill Chapman Stabbed Mr. E. A. Jenkins in the Back.

Bill Chapman made a murderous assault upon Mr. E. A. Jenkins at the freight depot Monday afternoon, stabbing him in the back with a knife and inflicting a painful but fortunately not fatal wound. Chapman is an ex-convict and is said to have a bad reputation in the community.

The assault upon Mr. Jenkins grew out of a dispute over a truck which one of Mr. Jenkins' wagon drivers was using and which Chapman tried to take from him. Mr. Jenkins interfered and put an end to the dispute by taking the truck from his driver and going out on the platform where he was supervising the loading of freight on his wagons. Chapman opened his knife, and placing it in his pocket where it would be handy for immediate use, followed Mr. Jenkins out on the platform and renewed the dispute. He made an attempt to take the truck from him by force and cursed him. Mr. Jenkins struck Chapman with his fist and in the scuffle the truck was dropped to the platform. Mr. Jenkins stooped to pick it up and as he did so Chapman drew his knife and stabbed him in the back, inflicting a deep wound in the muscles below the shoulder-blade. If the other negroes standing around had not interfered and stopped Chapman Mr. Jenkins would probably have received more severe injuries.

Chapman was arrested and committed to jail and will be given a preliminary hearing today.

MAYOR'S COURT.

The following cases were tried on Thursday.

John R. Keele, cursing and fighting, guilty, \$10 or 20 days.

Sydney Morris, drunkenness and disorderly conduct, guilty, \$2 or 4 days.

Henry Rayford, fighting, not guilty.

Robert Wright, public drunkenness, guilty, \$3 or 6 days.

Jim Ross, carrying a pistol in violation of the ordinance, guilty, \$2 or 4 days.

Candidate for Mayor.

We have been authorized to state that, at the urgent solicitation of friends, Dr. Geo. W. Dick has consented to be a candidate for Mayor at the municipal primary. He leaves for Washington this evening to attend the meeting of the Southern Dental Association, but upon his return at the end of the week the formal announcement of his candidacy will appear.

Manning News Notes.

Dr. Baker, of Sumter, came down Friday night and also Sunday night to consult with Drs. Brown and Dickson in the case of Mr. Claude Breedin, who is critically ill at his home.

Miss Olivia Ingram, after an extended visit in Manning, left last Saturday morning for Baltimore, where she goes to buy up the new stock of millinery for the Horn Dry Goods Co. of Sumter.

Dr. I. M. Woods, of Salem, came in town Monday and had been taking some quinine for a cold, but carelessly took the wrong medicine and took morphine instead. The result came near being fatal. The attendant had him locked up, thinking him to be under the influence of whiskey. But the doctor recovered and declares that a mistake in medicine was made and that he was not drunk.—*Manning Farmer.*

In a row at St. Paul Christmas eve Frank King shot Dosier Severance and pulled out for parts unknown. Severance lingered with his wound until the 12th of this month when he died, and Magistrate Richbourg held an inquest, and upon its verdict issued a warrant for the arrest of King.—*Manning Times.*

Bishopville News Items.

Town council scooped in \$69 last week from fines for disorderly conduct and \$23 this week.

The strike of the section masters and road hands on the A. C. L. is felt over on the Bishopville line. It was hard a few days ago to get hands to keep even the water tank filled. But everything is working smoothly now.

The many friends of Mr. George Baker will be glad to know he is able to be out again after the sad accident of losing an arm while coupling cars in Charleston two weeks ago.

Mr. Rollie Marsh and Miss Pearl Hill were married on Sunday, Feb. 14, 1904, at the residence of Mr. D. L. Davis by Rev. C. D. Peterson.

The blind tigers have become so bold in and around Bishopville that Chief Constable Hammett has deemed it necessary to put a special constable in Bishopville to beat them back into the jungles of Lynchess river. The funny part is, that Bishopville has to pay the fiddler \$60 a month out of the town's portion of the dispensary fund for making the tiger dance.

Judge Purdy will preside at the next term of court here and we are told that he will not allow witnesses and jurors to take up the time of court by being out of the court room when their names are called; nor will he permit the lawyers to consume time by useless talking. Not having court here in such a long time, the docket is a full one, but if Judge Purdy will do as we hear he does, he can clear it up in two weeks.—*Bishopville Vindicator.*

Church Officers Elected.

The first Quarterly Conference of Magnolia Street M. E. Church, South, was held last Tuesday evening, Rev. H. B. Browne, P. E., presiding. The following officers were elected to serve during the ensuing conference year:

Stewards—Geo. E. Beaumont, H. C. Barrineau, C. S. Curtis, W. T. Edens, R. J. Kennedy, T. B. Kennedy, Jno. S. Kennedy.

Trustees—C. S. Curtis, H. T. Edens, H. J. Hicks, T. B. Kennedy, C. D. Lide.

Superintendent of Sunday School and Recording Steward—Geo. E. Beaumont.

Very encouraging reports were received from the pastor and the official members, and the outlook at present seems to be very hopeful indeed.

This city owes it to itself that the Sumter Light Infantry be maintained, but unless a greater number of the business men take an active and substantial interest in the organization and assist in supporting the company by entering their names as contributing members the burden will soon become too great for the active members to carry. The company started out with quite a list of contributing members, but instead of this list growing it has dwindled, first one and then another of our prosperous business men finding it too great a tax upon their income to pay fifty cents a month to assist in keeping alive a military company that is a safeguard to the community at all times and is frequently the bulwark of our safety.

WANTED—Faithful person to travel for well established house in a few counties, calling on retail merchants and agents. Local territory. Salary \$20.00 per week with expenses additional, all payable in cash each week. Money for expenses advanced. Position permanent. Business successful and rushing. Standard House, 330 Dearborn street, Chicago. Nov. 11

FOR RENT—One storehouse, with three room dwelling attached, with necessary out buildings, for five months. Three and one half miles from Sumter in the fork of Providence and Stateburg roads. For terms apply to R. M. Edens, Sumter, S. C. July 29—tf.

W. A. BOWMAN, Prest. C. W. BOSHAMER, Sec. & Treas.

The Sumter Banking & Mercantile Company, Sumter, S. C.

Capital Stock \$50,000

Wholesale Grocers, Fertilizers and Farmers' Supplies.

Sole agents for the celebrated brand of Wilcox & Gibbs Fertilizers.

We are prepared to quote the very closest cash or time prices on all lines of

Groceries, Fertilizers and Farmers' Supplies,

And invite your investigation before making your arrangements for another year.

Come to see us. We will save you money, and give you a hearty, courteous welcome.

Sumter Banking & Mercantile Company,

Masonic Building, 2d door from the Postoffice. Sumter, S. C.

Southeastern Lime & Cement

COMPANY. CHARLESTON, S. C. Building Material of all kinds. High Grade Roofing "RUBEROID." Write for Prices. Feb 2 0