

The News From Smithville.

Smithville, May 19.—Smithville is now flourishing a city (?) not to be heard from occasionally in your valuable paper, so if you and your readers will accept my services I will try now and then to make known the happenings in our section.

On last Sunday afternoon we had Rev. R. H. Jones of First M. E. Church, Sumter, who exchanged pulpits with our pastor Rev. S. H. Booth. "Fair exchange is no robbery." This expression will give you some idea of how we appreciate our pastor while in no wise lessening the praises due Mr. Jones, for the sermon of the latter was an able one on the line of missions. Mr. Jones may not judge so from the after collection, but you can rest assured that Old St. John's can be relied on in the long run.

There will soon begin revival services at St. John's church. Our pastor will be assisted by the Rev. Thos. H. Leitch.

Cotton chopping is the principal discussion amongst the farmers just now, nearly all of them are now through with their chopping. Crops are looking well here.

Mrs. A. E. Munnerlyn who has been visiting her daughter in Orangeburg county for some time has returned home.

Mrs. Chas. L. Kirkley and three children are visiting relatives at McClellanville, S. C.

Miss Lena Kirkley, who has been teaching at Bishopville is at home on vacation.

The Fisherville paper states that Miss Lena Kirkley did not apply in Bishopville for a position because she had decided not to teach any more.

This statement is not true and is interfering with her receiving a desirable position, so she wishes to have it corrected. She does intend to teach, but did not care to return to Bishopville.

A child of Mr. Clarence Mathis was buried here Saturday.

Mr. S. M. Mathis has returned home quite sick.

Dr. C. P. Osteen, of Sumter, was in the village for a few hours yesterday.

Mr. W. F. Smith has just completed his livery stables and will be ready for business early in the fall. He is now having erected a residence on the Hill so as to be near his place of business.

The Masonic lodge here is in a flourishing condition. New members are being added at every meeting. There is now a movement on foot to raise funds for the building of a larger and better hall.

There is also a movement on foot to have a new and larger school house built here, and the probabilities are that the several small schools may combine into one large high school.

Saw Mill Burned.

The saw mill of Messrs. Lee Jenkins and R. Mood Brown, situated about five miles from the city, was burned on Wednesday night. The mill and a large stock of lumber were burned, causing a loss of about \$3,000. The origin of the fire has not been ascertained.

A Sure Thing.

It is said that nothing is a sure except death and taxes, but that is altogether true. Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption is a sure cure for all lung and throat troubles. Thousands can testify to that. Mrs. C. B. VanMetre of Shepherdstown, W. Va., says "I had a severe case of Bronchitis and for a year tried everything I heard of, but got no relief. One bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery then cured me absolutely." It's infallible for Croup, Whooping Cough, Grip, Pneumonia and Consumption. Try it. It's guaranteed by J. F. W. DeLorme, Druggist. Trial bottles free. Regular size 50c, and \$1.00.

For the New Church.

The ladies of the sewing circle of the new church building society of the First Methodist Church requests each lady member of the church to donate some article for the fancy sale which the society expects to give the first week in June.

Nervous Dyspepsia Cured by Rydale's Stomach Tablets.

Mr. R. E. Jones, buyer for Parker & Bridget, whose large department stores are located at 9th and Penn Ave., Washington D. C., writes, under date of April 14, '04, as follows: "Last February one year, while in New York on business, for my house, I caught a severe cold, which laid me up for several weeks and left me weak and nervous. I had little or no appetite and my digestion was very poor. My physicians could not get at the cause of my trouble as my digestion seemed so much impaired. I decided to try Rydale's Stomach Tablets, being assured by a friend they were good dyspepsia medicine. After using them for a few days I began to realize that I was getting better. I gave up the doctor's prescription and have gained 20 pounds while using two boxes of these tablets. I never felt better in my life, and accredit Rydale's Stomach Tablets with having cured me. I can recommend them most heartily, to sufferers from nervous indigestion and general run-down conditions of the system. All dealers.

Concert.

Thursday afternoon a most enjoyable concert was given at 20 East Harpton avenue by pupils of Miss Annie Teicher and Prof. Schumacher. Every number was rendered with ease and skill and reflected great credit on their teachers. The following programme was rendered: Spinning Song, Veon—Miss Balough. Caprice, Schnell—Miss Eddleman. Butterflies, Lige—Miss Daisy Munn. Cornet Solo. In Old Madrid, Trotter—Miss Francesca Teicher. Cozy Corner, Engleman—Miss Welsh. Dying Swan, Gottschalk—Miss Welsh. Violin Solo, Concert Polonaise, Troll—Miss Isidore Teicher. Tonkawa, Violin, Cornet and Piano—Storg—Misses Teicher.

To Farmer and Stockman.

For Farmers and Stock owners; use Elliott's Enriched Oil Liniment—is the best ever produced. You get a full half pint for 5c, and you'll find it a very satisfactory liniment for use in the family and on animals. All dealers.

JAPS ENCOUNTER COSSACKS.

Russians Claim That Japanese Army was Defeated and Driven Back in Disorder.

Japanese Navy Weakened but Not Crippled by Loss of Ships—Port Arthur to be Taken by Storm.

St. Petersburg, May 20.—Following on the heels of the news of the disasters to the Japanese fleet the general staff today received official advices of the defeat of the Japanese force which was marching northward from Feng Wang Cheng for the purpose of executing a flank movement on Mukden. Since Gen. Kuroki sent his column northward to gain the road leading directly west of Mukden, Gen. Kuropatkin has kept it under the closest surveillance, awaiting the moment when it should be so distant from the main Japanese army as to prevent its early reinforcement. Observing this plan the Russians withdrew and the Japanese, not finding a strong force of the enemy before them, continued to advance.

When the time for action came Gen. Kuropatkin let Gen. Rennenkampf loose from leash. Gen. Rennenkampf had under his command only a few regiments, but they were the flower of the Cossack cavalry. On May 19 he fell upon the enemy, whose number has not yet been revealed, with such vigor as to compel the Japanese retirement 12 miles toward the base, near enough, it is presumed, to have received reinforcements from Gen. Kuroki, who immediately must have been relieved of an awkward predicament. The operation is described by the general staff as just such a move as it was expected Gen. Kuropatkin would make and for which Gen. Rennenkampf was fitted and chosen.

The casualties sustained by the opposing forces have not yet been announced.

Apprehension of Rennenkampf's Cossacks hovering north, the authorities say, may explain the cautious action of Gen. Kuroki in establishing a strong base at Feng Wang Cheng and halting the column which was marching on Hai Cheng. It may also be a solution of the mystery of New Chwang, which at first was reported to have been evacuated and which is now said to be recaptured by the Russians, for if Kuroki has definitely stopped his westward movement Kuropatkin could safely continue to hold it without danger of the occupying force being cut off.

The general staff took occasion today to deny the report of a battle having been fought at Kai Chou in which 200 Russians were killed. As a matter of fact the Russians quietly withdrew from Kai Chou, being unwilling to expose their force at that point to the attack of a column marching from the east—that landed in southern Liao Tung.—The report that Kuropatkin had sent 70,000 men to relieve Port Arthur is declared by the general staff to be incredible.

That the Japanese will strain every nerve to take Port Arthur in view of the disaster to their fleet is not questioned in naval circles, and in spite of the danger of Russian mines Admiral Togo is expected to cooperate in the assault upon Port Arthur.

RUSSIAN CRUISER DESTROYED.

Tokio, May 21, 10 a. m.—A trustworthy report has been received at imperial headquarters that the Russian cruiser Bogatyr ran ashore outside Vladivostok in a heavy fog and was destroyed. This is the first ship of the Vladivostok squadron to be destroyed.

DENIED IN TOKIO.

Tokio, May 20.—The report that the battleship Shikishima was damaged and the battleship Fuji sank is denied here.

RUSSIANS SAY NOT SO.

St. Petersburg, May 20.—The admiralty states that there is not the slightest foundation for the report that the cruiser Bogatyr has been destroyed. The squadron, the admiralty asserts, is intact at Vladivostok.

TO STORM PORT ARTHUR.

Chicago, May 20.—A special to The Daily News from Tokio says: Port Arthur is to be taken by storm the moment proper preparations have been completed. Siege guns have yet to be placed in position and the land forces appointed for the assault have to be strengthened. The unexpected loss of two fine vessels has emphasized the insecurity of sea power and the authorities feel that no chances must be taken that would encourage Russia to send out the Baltic fleet counting on finding a harbor of refuge in Port Arthur.

It is realized that the storming of the fortress will inevitably cost many lives, but it is said that the waters where Japanese ships are forced to manoeuvre are becoming so dangerous because of floating mines that heroic measures are imperative. Under these circumstances it is thought that life will be economized by storming the stronghold and eliminating it and the adjacent waters from the area of actual conflict.

NEWS VIA LONDON.

London, May 21.—Nothing in the dispatches received in London regarding affairs in the far east reconciles the discrepancies between the Japanese and Russian official accounts of Japan's naval disaster. One Tokio report says that the battleship Hatsuse was destroyed by two mines chanced together. Vice Admiral Togo's suggestion that it was the work of a submarine boat is considered extremely probable. It is recognized on all sides that the Port Arthur channel has been reopened and the proved dangers of the navigation of these waters must put a great check upon the Japanese landing operations.

The Daily News' Tien Tsin correspondent states that five Japanese transports bound for Dalny were obliged to return to Moji on this account. Regarding land operation,

there is no confirmation of the rumors that a big battle has been fought in the neighborhood of Feng Wang Cheng. The view held here is that after testing the strength of the Russian position at the Mao Tien pass Gen. Kuroki made an orderly retirement and that his flanking movement in the direction of Mukden continues.

The Daily Mail's correspondent at Mukden claims that the Russians are now fully aware of the Japanese plans of attack. The uncertainty which has hitherto characterized the Russian campaign has ceased, the correspondent says, and severe fighting is imminent.

The correspondent of The Daily Telegraph at New Chwang says he hears that a clever strategical flanking movement has been executed by the Russians threatening the advanced position of Japanese east of Liao Yang and compelling them to retire on Feng Wang Cheng.

The Daily News' New Chwang correspondent asserts that the Japanese are now about to land anywhere on the western coast of Liao Tung peninsula without serious opposition from the Russians.

LANDED MORE TROOPS.

Tokio, May 20, 5.30 p. m.—Admiral Hosoya, commanding the Third squadron, reports that with the Third squadron, consisting of the Fuso, Heijen, Tsukushi, Sai Yen and other vessels, he protected the landing of troops at a new, unnamed place, probably Taku Shan, yesterday, bombarded the coast and landed a party of blue jackets, who occupied a point of land and raised the Japanese flag, at 8 o'clock in the morning. The landing of troops immediately commenced and was accomplished very quickly.

The Strawberry Crop.

One of the most interesting talks made before the chamber of commerce yesterday at the annual meeting was that of Mr. James H. Chadbourn relative to the strawberry industry in the vicinity of Chadbourn. The members present had some idea of what the berry business was, but they had no idea it had reached such gigantic proportions.

More berries are shipped from Chadbourn, the speaker said, than any one market in the world. On last Monday he said there were shipped from this market 82 cars of strawberries and the local bank on that day paid out the enormous sum of \$60,000.

In years gone by the speaker said, the farmer had to ship his berries to the northern market and wait until they were sold before he got his money. Conditions he said had now changed and instead of the farmer sending his crop to the buyer the buyer comes to the farmer. The system used in buying strawberries is somewhat like that employed in towns where tobacco is sold.

In the vicinity of Chadbourn, the speaker said there were seventy-five buyers. He said if anyone present had ever visited the stock exchange in New York City they could get an idea of the excitement that prevailed when a farmer drove to the station with a wagon loaded with the luscious fruit.

The buyers, he said, at once made a dash for the wagon and began bidding. The deal being closed the successful bidder tears a memorandum from a duplicate book on which is written the number of the car where the berries are to be placed and gives it to the farmer. He carries the berries to the car and after the duplicate is checked O. K. he carries it to the bank and gets his money.

In the vicinity of Chadbourn there are now about ten thousand people engaged in picking strawberries. A labor bureau has been established and when a farmer wishes to secure berry pickers all he has to do is to put in his application for the number he wants at the labor bureau. The people from many of the adjoining counties flock to the berry section during this season. Mr. Chadbourn said out of curiosity he asked a small negro girl how much she had made.

She replied one dollar, and this was about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. One thing he said that why the bank had to pay out so much money was because the pickers were paid off every day.

He said there were numbers of people in the berry section who had made small fortunes during the past few years. One instance cited was that of Mr. A. Coultas. Mr. Coultas came to Chadbourn about five years ago and stated that he only had one hundred dollars. He bought a farm for \$500 and began growing strawberries. He succeeded from the beginning, and it was only a short time before his farm was free from incumbrance and he was making improvements on his farm. On last Monday, Mr. Coultas received for his berries that were picked that day \$907. Each day for the week before he had received from \$250 to \$500 per day. Mr. Chadbourn said he asked Mr. Coultas if he was satisfied with his success, he replied by saying, "I would not sell my farm for \$10,000 and I have \$4,100 to my credit in the bank. Don't it look like I ought to be satisfied?"

Other instances were cited where land had increased enormously in value. One piece of property spoken of was bought ten years ago for \$250, and five years ago it sold for \$1,000 and was recently sold again for the sum of \$4100.—Wilmington Messenger.

Richmond, May 18.—A special from Williamsburg, Va., says a cyclone struck that town this afternoon, doing much damage. The roof of one house was blown up at least 200 feet and landed a quarter of a mile away from where it was torn off. The main street of the town is filled with tree tops from one end to the other. One man, Thomas McCracken, was injured by being blown against a fence.

Referring to the latest Georgia lynching, a telegram says: "The crowd was very quiet and orderly." This was very considerate in the lynchers, as it made them safe from arrest on a charge of "disorderly conduct."—Wilmington Star.

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CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of *Wm. D. Little*

Cotton Must Have Potash. Potash is an essential plant food which must be added as a fertilizer or the soil will become exhausted, as is true of so many cotton fields. We have books giving valuable details about fertilizers. We will send them free to any farmer who asks us for them. GERMAN KALI WORKS, New York—29 Nassau Street, or Atlanta, Ga.—223 E. Broadway St.

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We Want 1,000 Young Men TO QUALIFY FOR GOOD POSITIONS GUARANTEED IN WRITING. 600 FREE SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED WRITE TO DAY TO GA.-ALA. BUS. COLLEGE, MACON, GA. Land Surveying. I will give prompt attention to all calls for surveying, platting, terracing hill sides, draining bottoms, drawing Mortgages, Titles, Probating, &c. BANKS H. BOYKIN, D. S., Catchall, S. C.

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C. P. Osteen, M. D. No. 18 W. Liberty St., (Over Osteen's Book Store) SUMTER, S. C.