

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1905.

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.

The lumber market is firm now—so firm that prospective house builders are beginning to figure to see if houses cannot now be built as cheaply of brick. The destruction of our forests may cause a reversion to the brick and stone age in house construction.

The Charleston, Ohio & Virginia Railroad company was chartered at Raleigh, N. C., a few days ago with a capital stock of \$2,200,000. This road, the articles of incorporation state, is to extend from Charleston through the counties of Berkeley, Clarendon, Sumter, Kershaw, Lancaster and across the state of North Carolina. This appears to be an entirely new enterprise and no one here knows anything about it. Nevertheless it will find a welcome awaiting it when it reaches the Game Cock City. We can't have too many independent railway systems.

The offer of cheap ice now should not deceive anyone, but should rather be an incentive to push the plans for the Consumers' Ice Co., to a speedy and successful realization. What Sumter wants is independence of a condition that makes it possible for a single corporation to fix the price of ice at an exorbitant price today or at a figure that is ridiculously low tomorrow. No one wants ice given to them any more than they ask for meat or bread on the same terms. We are not a community of mendicants, but a people willing and able to pay a legitimate price for the necessities of life and such of the luxuries as our means permit us to enjoy. We are not begging for any concessions or charity, but we are demanding our rights, and when a corporation undertakes by means of combination agreement to stifle competition in the sale of a necessity and arbitrarily extorts double price for it, we are uniting to provide the means to supply our needs. The conditions and the remedy can be understandably summarized in three words—Consumers' Ice Co.

Several of the leading New York papers, particularly those closely affiliated with the financial interests of that city, have recently expressed grave apprehensions that banks of the South will do themselves serious injury, and thereby impair public confidence, if they extend aid and comfort to the Southern Cotton Growers' Association in its effort to hold cotton as a means of improving the price of cotton. They take the position that the banks should not lend money to farmers on cotton as collateral as they are engaged in a speculative venture when they persist in refusing to sell cotton at the price fixed by the New York and Liverpool cotton exchange speculators, and that, consequently, cotton is not a safe collateral. Our friends of the North have grown accustomed to worrying overmuch about the welfare of the South and their advice is always on tap; but always when they are most worried the South is doing something for the South's benefit that may incidentally result to the disadvantage of Northern interests. According to the views of many Northern business men and financiers the South exists and does business primarily for the benefit and enrichment of the North and any policy that is in the least detrimental to these interests is fraught with great danger to the country, even though common sense, self-interest and good business policy dictate that it is to the advantage of the South. The solicitude of our Northern friends is gratifying as an exhibition of brotherly love and pure benevolence, but the South will be better off when it begins totting its own business skiffet and pays no attention to the advice of Northern speculators whose every interest is dependent upon the fluctuations of the cotton market. If a stable price could be fixed for cotton the speculators and the bucket shops would be driven out of business, and folks who now wear diamonds and fine raiment would be hunting another graft or a job of honest work. Cotton is the best sort of collateral and if the Southern banks do not assist the cotton farmers to control and dictate the price of the South's great staple to the extent of preventing the fixing of prices by speculators irrespective of supply and demand they will be working against their own interests and prove themselves enemies of the people upon whose prosperity their own stability depends.

The city of Sumter has a level-headed council and this fact was never more forcibly demonstrated than by the prompt and decided refusal

last night to consider the proposition of the Electric Light company to grant them a fifteen-year extension of the lighting contract at an increased price. Electric lights are growing cheaper each year, and a municipal plant operated in connection with the water works system can furnish street lights cheaper than any private corporation.

The naval station at Charleston is proving to be a railway magnet, and if the Charleston business men would wake up they could carry two or more new railroads into the city. The railroads want to go to Charleston now, and there is enough money in Charleston to build a road to the coal fields without waiting for outside capitalists to do it and reap the profit.

The sale of the court house lot, containing only one acre of land, for \$60,000, seems to stagger some of our friends in other towns, and even some of our own citizens who ought to be conversant with the value of real estate in the business portion of the city, think this price is high, but people of other towns should not undertake to compare Sumter values with values at home, while Sumter people should wake up and inform themselves as to the actual value of business real estate. The rent paid by quite a number of stores on Main street is more than a fair interest on the cost of store building and a valuation of \$300 a front foot for the land upon which it stands. Real estate in the business portion of town is increasing in value every day and any Main street lot within the same distance from the corner of Main and Liberty street as the court house is worth today the price per foot paid for the court house square. And within twelve months it will be worth more on the open market. The very people who now exclaim over the price will be trying to buy a court house square lot as an investment within a year or two. An instance illustrative of the increase in real estate values is the Ryttenburg store. About a year ago this property was purchased by the Bank of Sumter for \$17,500 and the know-alls held up their hands and exclaimed over the enormous price. Yet today the Bank of Sumter could sell this property for \$25,000 if it would say the word.

It seems to us that both the judge and solicitor engaged in the trial of the Eutawville lynchings have failed to perform their full duty in one respect. Several of the petit jurymen who were challenged and put upon their voir dire, stated under oath that they had been "approached" after it became known that they had been drawn to serve on the jury. The sworn statement that an attempt had been made to bribe the prospective members of the jury should not have been allowed to drop. The solicitor, it seems to us, had the right to go a step further and ask the name of the persons or person who had approached the jurymen, and thereby lay the foundation for a criminal prosecution of the persons who made the effort to tamper with the jury. The solicitor failing in this, the presiding judge had the right, and it was his duty to demand of the jurymen the name of the party who had approached them, for the purpose of punishing the said party for contempt of court. The newspaper reports indicate that no attention was paid to the statements of the jurymen that they had been "approached" by either the judge or solicitor and this oversight or neglect of duty, call it what you please, strikes us as somewhat peculiar.

The Louisiana rice millers have decided to use cotton bags for the shipment of rice instead of jute bags. This is a cotton movement of the practical sort and the cotton oil mills should follow suit and use cotton bags for the shipment of cotton seed meal.

If all the prospective gubernatorial candidates come to the scratch the State executive committee can make job lot price on the assessments and still not be short of funds to pay campaign expenses.

Don't wait but take your twine home now from W. B. Boyle.

Overworked Kidneys.

Murray's Buchu, Gin and Juniper is prescribed and endorsed by eminent physicians. It cures when all else fails. Prevents Kidney Disease, Dropsy, Bright's Disease, etc. At all drug stores \$1.00 a bottle or direct from the Murray Drug Co., Columbia, S. C.

Oats harvest will soon be on. Get your twine from W. B. Boyle.

To realize the number of new houses going up in Sumter one only has to take a stroll of the city—they are being erected in every section of the city.

Four and five room cottages are in demand. Good investment for our capitalists. Sumter has no ball team as yet.

THE ICE MEETING

The Consumers' Ice Co., Will Be Chartered at Once—Mr. J. J. Harby Addresses Meeting.

The meeting of those interested in the formation of the Consumers' Ice Company held in the court House Monday evening was well attended although the crowd was not as large as that which attended the meeting last week. The interest was fully as great, however, and the sentiment in favor of establishing an independent ice factory is as strong if not stronger than ever. In fact the sentiment has become crystallized into determination, and the factory will be built at once.

The meeting was somewhat late in assembling owing to the fact that court did not adjourn until half past six o'clock.

The meeting was called to order and got down to business at once. Mr. Barlow Walsh, chairman of the committee appointed at the previous meeting to solicit subscriptions to stock, made a report for the committee. He stated that subscriptions amounting to 1,400 shares all told had been obtained largely in small blocks and that many of the subscribers had expressed a willingness to increase their subscriptions if necessary to insure the organization of the company. He stated that the committee had met the representative of the York Manufacturing company and had obtained from him detailed specifications for furnishing ice plants, prices being given for 15, 20 and 25 ton plants also on a 15 ton plant that can be enlarged to 25 ton capacity when desired. In round figures it will require \$10,000 to establish a 15 ton plant and \$12,500 for a 25 ton plant. The committee had also received numerous telegrams from other manufacturers of ice machinery quoting prices and offering to send detailed specifications, but he did not think it necessary to read these telegrams.

Mr. E. I. Reardon stated that he desired to make an explanation. He said that he had, along with Messrs. E. L. Witherspoon and W. W. McKagen, been invited to become members of the canvassing committee and had attended a meeting of the committee. At that meeting Mr. E. L. Witherspoon had expressed a disinclination to go into a movement to antagonize an existing local manufacturing enterprise without first ascertaining from the managers of that factory if they would not arrange to give the people of Sumter in the way of cheap ice what they are seeking to obtain by the establishment of an independent competing factory. Mr. Witherspoon was authorized to call on Mr. J. J. Harby, of the Sumter Electric Light, Ice and Power Company and obtain from him the information sought. He called on Mr. Harby and was given a great deal of information respecting the ice business, but was informed by Mr. Harby that he was not prepared to give him an immediate answer as to whether his company would furnish ice at the prices specified in the agreement un-

der which the people are working to establish the Consumers' Ice Company. Subsequently he had an interview with Mr. Harby, and, as a result of the conversation, he had invited Mr. Harby to attend the meeting and explain his side of the ice question to the public. Mr. Harby was present in response to that invitation and was not an intruder.

Mr. Harby was given the privilege of the floor to make whatever statement he desired.

Mr. Harby said that he had accepted the invitation to attend the meeting as a result of Mr. Witherspoon's call on him during which he evinced an honest desire to obtain information at first hand and to treat the ice company fairly. He was surprised by Mr. Witherspoon's visit for it was the first time any one had ever exhibited a similar disposition. He had taken pleasure in going fully into the facts of the situation for Mr. Witherspoon's information and had done a thing he had never done before—had showed him the books, correspondence and contracts of the company to confirm the statement made. He had done this because he was so appreciative of Mr. Witherspoon's fair treatment—something to which they were not accustomed. The public had a misconception of the ice situation and then false ideas were obtained from the press, which had made statements on the subject on misinformation or from a lack of correct information. He had been very much surprised, however, that bank officials—two at least who he knew to have attended the previous meeting—had not stated the facts to the public in that meeting, how the Electric Light, Ice and Power Company had been struggling along for months paying interest on overdrafts and that it had not been able to pay a dividend in two years. It was a fact well known that in the electric light department the company did not make a cent and maintained it only for the purpose of keeping together a force of good and reliable men by being able to give them steady employment throughout the year. In reference to the prices of ice paid by local consumers he said that these prices were regulated by the local retail dealers, and that the company would sell them ice at the same price paid by the dealers in other towns. In ten ton lots the price was \$4 per ton; in lots of two tons or more up to ten tons the price was \$5 a ton, and in less than two tons lots the price was \$6 a ton. The local dealer bought in small quantities having the ice delivered in lots of one, two, four or more blocks at a time, their reason for doing this being to save themselves from the loss by melting which would be quite an item if they bought in larger quantities and kept the ice on hand for any length of time.

Mr. Harby was asked a number of questions by Messrs. W. B. Boyle, A. B. Stuckey and others, all of which he answered, but most of which he had covered in his general statement. He explained how ice was obtained by consumers in some other places, by saying that he was informed that at Wedgfield, for instance, the people

formed an ice club and bought two tons at a time and divided it among themselves at a merely nominal expense, one person who attended to the division and distribution receiving a small per centage on the cost for doing so. These people paid the factory the same price the local dealers would pay if they bought in the same quantity.

After more or less resulatory talk back and forth Mr. Harby was asked the direct question if his company could or would arrange to sell ice in this city for 25 cents a hundred in 100 pound lots, or 35 cents a hundred in smaller quantities. He replied that he could not do so. He was then asked if he would sell ice at the factory to a consumer's delivery company for \$4 a ton in two ton lots. He said he could not, as he had entered into contracts with the local dealers and they had invested money in horses, wagons and other outfits for carrying on the business and he felt he owed it to them to carry out his contracts.

He was asked by Mr. Boyle, going back to the statement that the company had not paid a dividend for two years, if they had not spent a large sum in enlarging the plant? He replied that they had spent about \$8,000 in replacing worn out machinery and that had taken all they had made and besides had left them with an overdraft of \$2,500, on which interest had been paid. He said also that stock in that company could be bought for less than par and if the people wanted to invest in the ice business they

could obtain stock, plenty being up on the market.

Mr. Edens asked him if he would make a price on the ice plant at the electric light station. He said he would not.

Mr. Walsh stated that it having been definitely learned that ice could not be obtained from the existing factory on the terms that the public regarded as reasonable, he thought it in order to proceed with the organization of the Consumers' Ice Company.

Rev. C. C. Brown offered a resolution that the meeting proceed with the business for which it was called, which was adopted.

Mr. Stuckey suggested that subscriptions of stock be invited from citizens of Camden and other nearby towns, who, he was informed, were taking a lively interest in the movement inaugurated in this city to obtain cheaper ice.

Major H. F. Wilson moved that a board of corporators be appointed to apply for a charter, complete the canvass for stock subscription and take such other steps preliminary to the organization of the company as might be necessary. The motion was adopted and the canvassing committee was appointed to act under the resolution as a board of corporators.

Before the meeting adjourned a number of subscribers doubled their stock subscription.

Buy your binder twine from W. B. Boyle.

Twine, Twine, Twine for binding oats. W. B. Boyle.

Summer Fabrics For Male and Female.

Summer is actually upon us, there is no escaping it. Those who can afford it may go to the mountains or seashore, but even should they be so fortunate as to get away for a short period they must provide themselves with material suitable to the season.

WASH FABRICS.

There is nothing so essential to a lady's summer outfit as wash material. It matters not how soiled or abused they get, after a good tubbing and properly ironed they are just as attractive as when first they came from the dress maker. Our stock of this material comprises everything in the line from 5 to 25 cents per yard.

WHITE LAWNS.

There is probably no material in the line of female wearing apparel for Summer that is so attractive as a white lawn suit. These are also very appropriate for children, especially for commencement suits. Our line of

INDIA LINONS.

At 5, 6 1/4, 8 1-3, 10, 12 1/2, 15, 20, 25 and 35 cents have no superior as to values. The number we are selling

AT 5 CENTS

would really look cheap on many counters at 7 1/2. We have had to duplicate on it several times, and at present have none in stock, but there is a large shipment on the way due to arrive this week.

WHITE CANVAS OXFORDS.

Although the season has barely opened already we have been compelled to reorder this line. The popular priced Oxford is ONE DOLLAR and we believe we have the best on the market at that price. They are made for us by The H. C. Godman Co., and that is a guarantee of their merit.

MEN'S WEAR.

This has been the busiest department of our house this season. It keeps constantly growing. We cannot account for it unless it is due to

OUR VALUE GIVING CAPACITY.

We believe we enjoy the reputation of selling the best clothes for the least money of any house in the city.

Our line of TWO PIECE SUITS at \$5.00, \$7.50 and \$10.00 will be found excellent values.

MEN'S SERGE COATS.

There is nothing so cool and dressy for a man's summer coat as a double breasted serge. We have them in black and blue, slims, stouts and regular form

\$2.50 TO \$7.00.

And pants in a pretty assortment of stripes from

\$1.50 to \$5.00.

JUST WRIGHT SHOES.

We have carefully searched the shoe manufacturing centres, since the destruction of the Reynolds factory by fire, to find a shoe that in our judgment would take its place, and feel that we have at last succeeded. We can speak from personal experience regarding its comfort and wearing qualities, and believe it to be what its name implies JUST WRIGHT.

MEN'S NEGLIGEE SHIRTS.

Our assortment of these is very complete and there is no better value to be had anywhere than those we are selling AT 50 CENTS.

BOYS WANTS.

We do not forget the little fellows. In fact they are constantly in our mind. Today we received a shipment of boys caps, the prettiest line we have ever seen AT 25 CENTS.

Our boys suit department was also replenished today with a lot of very nobby suits which we closed out fully 33 1-3 PER CENT UNDER PRICE. The little fellows will get the full benefit of this. We can dress a boy very neatly for 50 CENTS.

A pair of our washable pants for a quarter and shirt waist at the same price. We are selling MOTHER'S FRIEND WAISTS AT 35c. The mother who has been buying these knows well what a saving this is to her. We might go on indefinitely enumerating the various attractions our stores offer, but space forbids.

O'DONNELL & COMPANY.

A FRESH LAUNCHING.

After fifteen years of sailing upon the mercantile sea, we launch our bark again upon new waters, but headed for the same port.

Our craft is steady and safe, set deep, and well ballasted.

We fancy that the man at the helm knows his business, and we cordially invite the happy multitude to journey with us.

We covet a full passenger list. Our rates shall be reasonable, our treatment of patrons just, and our equipment as good as the best.

BEWLEY HARDWARE CO.,

No. 28 North Main St. - Sumter, S. C.