

COUNTY CORRESPONDENCE.

NEWS LETTERS FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.

Items of Interest From all Parts of Sumter and Adjoining Counties.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mail your letters so that they will reach this office not later than Tuesday morning. When the letters are received Wednesday it is almost an impossibility to have them appear in the paper issued that day.

STATEBURG.

Stateburg, March 5.—Mrs. James Pinckney and Miss A. N. Moore spent Saturday and Sunday in Sumter with Mrs. A. P. Manning.

Mr. W. H. Rees, of Sumter, spent Sunday with his mother at "Midway."

Miss Helen C. Frierson returned on Saturday from Summerton, where she spent two delightful weeks visiting the family of Dr. D. O. Rhame.

Mr. Early Mellette spent Sunday at home.

Mrs. F. H. McLeod, of Florence, is visiting her mother, Mrs. S. E. Nelson.

Mr. W. D. Frierson returned today to Great Falls, S. C., after a short stay at home.

Mrs. Screven Moore and Miss Martha Moore spent Saturday in Sumter.

Mr. Frank P. Burgess, who has been buying cotton in Bishopville, is at home again.

Misses Martha, Irene and Edith Moore and Master John Moore, of Spokane, Washington, who have been visiting Mr. Screven Moore, are now on a visit to their aunt, Mrs. S. R. Fuld.

Rev. W. H. Barnwell is visiting friends at Hagood today.

SMITHVILLE.

Smithville, March 4.—Last Monday was quite an exciting day to our community on account of so many automobiles passing on their way to the polo games in Camden. One automobile tried passing Swift creek, four miles from here, and we learn that it did not get through easy, as the water is quite deep. Two other automobiles had to stop here for repairs.

Dr. J. W. Parker, Mr. W. S. Smith and W. F. Smith all went to the polo games in Camden Monday.

Mr. C. L. Nunery unfortunately lost his barn and stables by fire on last Sunday.

A small grand child of Neels Bennett was burned several days ago, from the effects of which it died on Thursday.

Mrs. J. T. Munnerlyn is in Camden visiting Mrs. H. L. Munnerlyn.

The colored school here had a commencement on yesterday, Friday. All kinds of speaking, recitations and games were indulged in and the day was wound up with a big dinner. Of course the colored folks had their usual good time.

DARK CORNER.

Dark Corner, March 6.—It's cloudy and the wind is blowing this morning, so I write a line for the Item. There is very little news. We have had a pretty good week to work, and we have continued to hop the clods, but we are still behind, or we think so, with our work.

Bob Ardis's child is better and Mrs. Geddings is thought to be a little better at last accounts.

There came very near being a severe accident at Pinewood last Wednesday night. The local freight train ran into a buggy in which was Mr. James McCutcheon and Miss Annie Bagnal, daughter of Mr. I. B. Bagnal, demolishing the rear part of the buggy and throwing Mr. McCutcheon and Miss Bagnal 10 or 15 feet. But fortunately they were not seriously hurt. The horse was not struck and he ran off and when he was found he still had the front part of the buggy hitched to him.

Mr. Sam Griffin of Pinewood, has moved into his new store on Commerce street.

Mr. A. L. Burkett has opened up a line of furniture in the old store, corner of Commerce street and Hampton avenue.

I don't agree with the Spartanburg Journal that the people are determined to get rid of the dispensary. There are a great many of us that think the dispensary is far better than prohibition, in name alone, or in high license. I am fearful that if we ever get prohibition that we will find a blind tiger under every "hurricane," and in every thick patch of bushes. And should we have high license I am afraid it would be as I heard a stranger express it in your city on the 19th ultimo, that he believed the high license men would go over to the blind tigers and say we have got the stuff, you take and sell and we will divide with you. So I say (although I am a prohibitionist) give us the dispensary until we can get something better. But for the sake of the little boys and our young men, please don't give us bar rooms, where they congregate and learn profanity, vulgarity and everything that is degrading to humanity. I have been there and I know whereof I speak. So I say, God forbid, that there should ever be another barroom or blind tiger in the State of South Carolina.

Mr. Joe M. Ardis and family visited W. J. Ardis and wife Monday evening. Miss Eunice E. Osteen, who is attending school in your city, spent last Sunday with her parents at the Sycamores.

Mrs. F. H. Osteen, Miss Eattie Ramsey and Miss Eunice Osteen visited Mrs. Osteen's sister, Mrs. F. J. Graham, near Paxville, last Sunday.

HAGOOD.

Hagood, March 9.—Items around Hagood are scarce as well as on the Peninsula.

Quite a quantity of fertilizer has been delivered here with more to follow.

There is little complaint with us as to scarcity of labor.

I fear our people are increasing the acreage as well as the fertilizer this year.

One citizen told me he found more money in small grain and hay, with less worry and trouble than cotton and then gave the facts to prove it.

I believe there are a lot of us fellows putting in a few more acres of cotton this year with heavier fertilizing that have a sneaking that we are playing the fool and can't help feeling mean about it. Of course I am not talking about you, but your neighbor over there.

Our people are planting their gardens, many buying cabbage from Charleston and elsewhere.

The small grain is not looking as well as it ought. Many have applied soda. Where oats have age and size they run a risk in doing so. The writer saw considerable acres that were killed last year by a late frost and freeze.

Mr. T. O. Sanders has recently installed a new saw mill outfit, all improvements and up-to-date machinery and is now prepared to furnish lumber in good shape and short order to the public.

Mrs. C. J. Jackson, who has been quite sick, is improving.

The farmers have taken advantage of the recent fine weather to plow their lands.

EDWARDS.

Edwards, S. C., March 10.—We are having sunshine again after a very heavy rain.

Mr. A. K. Weldon, of Wisacky, is visiting relatives at this place.

Miss Bertha Huggins is visiting relatives at Paxville this week.

Mr. F. G. Peebles was in Camden yesterday.

Mrs. S. A. White is quite sick at this time.

Rev. S. H. Booth preached at St. John's M. E. church last Sunday.

Mr. Harold Bradley, of Braun, spent last Sunday in this vicinity.

Rev. Geo. M. Howerton filled his regular appointment at New Hope Presbyterian church last Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Ned Pierce, of West Wateree, spent last Sunday with Mr. Marion Weldon.

Miss Anna Holland is reported to be some better.

MAX.

Max, March 12.—Mr. Bryant Smith is slowly recovering from a long and serious sickness.

Miss Maggie Hinds did not teach Friday on account of a severe cold.

Colds and measles are prevalent.

Miss Ellen Caraway is visiting her sister, Mrs. E. L. Truluck, of Lynchburg.

Misses Annie and Pearl Truluck spent Saturday in Timmonsville.

The roads are not used a great deal by the farmers just now except on Sundays.

A prayer meeting of long standing at Nazareth church is well attended.

Oats are doing well enough.

PRIVATEER.

Privateer, S. C., March 12.—Mrs. C. H. Coker, of Hartsville, is spending some time with her father, Rev. T. P. Lide.

There was quite a large crowd at Mrs. S. J. Bradford's dance Friday night. Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Nettles, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Harvin and Mr. and Mrs. Perry Ingram were the chaperones.

Miss Edna Tryon, Mrs. R. H. Hall, of Sumter and Mrs. Torr Hall of Fla., spent Saturday and Sunday at Mrs. L. E. Jenkins.

Miss Emma Nettles of Lanes, is spending some time at Mrs. S. J. Bradford's.

Miss Edna Ramsey is spending this week with relatives at Wedgefield.

Miss Emma Geddings spent Saturday and Sunday at her home Paxville.

Miss Amy Wells spent Sunday with relatives in Wedgefield.

Mr. Marion Mellette of Wedgefield, visited in Privateer Sunday.

Miss Cammie Nesbitt returned home Saturday after spending a week in Columbia.

LEE COUNTY NEWS.

From the Bishopville Vindicator.

Miss Julia Corbett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Corbett, died last Monday at her home in the Antioch section.

The friends of Captain Dave E. Durant, will be sorry to hear that he has been extremely ill the past week, but glad that he is better.

Miss Mary Eliza McLeod, who is one of the teachers in the M. E. Col-

lege in Columbia, has been spending several days with her brother, Mr. T. G. McLeod.

Mrs. Mattie Joy and daughter, after a pleasant visit to relatives returned to their home in Sumter on Tuesday.

Mr. A. K. Weldon, who has settled near Wisacky, is preparing to build a neat country home. Mr. Weldon is one of our progressive and successful young men who makes farming a success and we are pleased to note that he has settled so near Bishopville.

Dr. L. H. Jennings is having material hauled to put up a model residence on his lot on Church street. Mr. J. Hogue of Lexington, is the contractor and says the plans embraced will combine both the colonial and modern styles of architecture and will cost \$3,000.

The political bee is trying to force the season and is out already buzzing around. We have it from pretty good authority that in the race for senator there are likely to be five candidates out and may be six. Hons. W. McD. Green and R. H. Pittman, R. W. McLenon, J. B. McLaughlin, E. Frank Kelley and we have heard that the friends of Dr. N. Y. Alford are urging him to make the race. For representative, Dr. T. B. Manning's name is prominently mentioned along with Messrs. George M. Stuckey, Edwin Wilson and Major E. F. Burhows.

As Others See It.

The Sumter Daily News of Saturday contained an announcement of the discontinuance of that paper. While we regret exceedingly to see any industrial enterprise meet with misfortune we wish that people would be more judicious and more generous to others in business when they start enterprises. The daily in Sumter was a good clean sheet, a very excellent newspaper, but Sumter had one already and it was with the intention of supplanting the enterprise that the new one was started. Sumter is a good, live town, its merchants stand nobly by an enterprise that is for the good of the town, but Sumter is not big enough for a daily paper such as they wanted and they have now found it out after having lost money, but how much we do not know, the paper was sold after the originators found out their mistake. They got our good friend Knight into it and now he is said to be broken down in health and on that account the paper has to be suspended. Besides this we are very sure that the old paper has been obliged to stretch its resources so that the strain will be felt for quite awhile. If there has been any good accomplished it does not show on the surface. We know something about that sort of thing. People frequently criticize the Times for not putting up a new building but they cannot understand when we tell them that the same resources that we might have used in putting up that much desired building had to be absorbed in the purchase of the paper which recently gave us a rustle for the field, small as it is here. This is just as true of mercantile enterprises as of newspapers or anything else. Why cannot you do something that is not being done by some one else? It would save a heap of trouble in the commercial world. There are plenty of avenues for investment of talents and money without trying to crowd anyone or two already more or less well filled. The worst element that could possibly enter into business is spite work, no matter what else you undertake cut the spite work, it is mighty apt to come back on you.—*Florence Times.*

Miss Mitt Durant, stenographer and typewriter, is now located in the arcade on the second floor of the Hotel Sumter.

The present city council has a chance left to order the removal of the unsightly signs suspended across the sidewalks.

The advertisements of the D. J. Chandler Clothing Co., tells what sort of goods they sell and the guarantee that is back of them.

The Civic League will make an effort this season to beautify the depot grounds. There is room for improvement, on aesthetic lines, thereabouts.

Some day the Atlantic Coast Line officials will suddenly realize that umbrella sheds afford no protection to the traveling public and will put up a car shed at our depot.

There is almost enough money in the hands of Mr. J. D. Wilder to erect a suitable monument to mark the grave of Joe Levan. If one-half of those who were his friends will each contribute a small sum the monument can be erected at once.

A mild winter in the North has cut down the crop of natural ice to such small proportions that there is talk of an ice famine in that section before the summer is over. High prices for ice in the North seems to be a certainty. Here in Sumter we need not worry for ice at a reasonable price is assured.

Rev. C. C. Herbert, of Camden, filled the pulpit of the First Methodist church Sunday morning and evening. He preached strong and interesting sermons at both services to large congregations. Mr. Herbert is one of the ablest and most eloquent of the younger members of the conference and is always a welcome visitor in this city where he has many friends who have known him from boyhood.

COTTON GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

Much is Expected From the Executive Ability of President Parrott.

Hagood, March 9.—So you were not at our farmers' meeting the other day in the city, not that you were disinterested, but we were there. I want to tell you a thing that happened. I suppose most of us, the general public, as well as the farmer, had been looking around and casting about much for a suitable person to elect in the stead of Mr. Stuckey, he having resigned. The writer was utterly at sea himself and in consequence was a bit depressed. When any organization cannot, out of its own material, furnish a leader it is in bad shape, and he was fearful that such a state of things existed in old Sumter, but he was badly mistaken for while he will not rear around and paw in the air as some of us do, the writer for instance, we have in L. I. Parrott one of the best county chairmen in the State and I feel safe in predicting that e'er the close of the year the Sumter county association will be one of the best organized and effective in the country, for our new chairman is a man that makes things happen. His was the only name put in nomination and of course his election was unanimous. No sooner was he elected than he gave proof of good metal and the few in attendance went away with brighter and better hopes for the movement. Already has he, in connection with Mr. Woodley, had a personal interview with Mr. Jordan securing from him a promise to address us some time in April. But that is not all; we expect to have a rousing time at our regular monthly meeting the first Monday in April when such men as Mr. Williams, of Darlington, will deliver addresses that cannot fail to be instructive and helpful.

A word in praise of our faithful painstaking, persevering secretary, Mr. Peter M. Pitts; he is the right man in the right place.

As is proper and right the colored farmer is to have a place in our gatherings. As was stated that day by some of the whites, in a number of places in the county they are heartier supporters of the movement than their white brethren.

I am sure, Mr. Editor, that had you been at our meeting you would have felt impressed that notwithstanding the slim attendance the outlook here in Sumter county is brighter than at any time since our organization.

H. C. Betha.

MURDER TRIAL IN DARLINGTON.

Case Against Windham, Charged With Killing Charlie Amerson.

Darlington, March 8.—The case of Kistler A. Windham, charged with the killing of Charlie Amerson on February 17, occupied the whole of the time of the Court of General Sessions today. The taking of testimony was concluded about 6 o'clock this afternoon by Windham himself taking the stand. The State had presented a strong case according to its witnesses, but the defense was able almost to destroy the whole on cross-examination. Windham made a very favorable impression as a witness, and was on the stand for less than 30 minutes. Yet he accounted for himself in a most satisfactory manner for every minute of the time during the difficulty in which Amerson lost his life.

Solicitor Johnson, in his shrewdest efforts, could not shake Windham's story, and it is well known in the Pee Dee section that when Mr. Johnson fails there is a good reason why he could not succeed.

Mr. Windham is a young man, of possibly 25 years of age, and has a pleasant address. He is not more than 5 feet, 2 or 3 inches in height, but is of rather heavy build, weighing about 160 pounds. He is clean shaven and has quite an intelligent appearance. He is engaged in the mercantile business at Lamar and is doing well. He has proved a splendid reputation for character, peaceableness and otherwise, by all the witnesses, both for the State and the defense.

Much interest has been manifested in Windham's case from the beginning. The court house has been packed, testifying to the high esteem and popularity enjoyed by "Kiss Windham," as the defendant is familiarly called. He was married a few years ago to a Miss Reynolds, but she died about two years ago and Mr. Windham now lives with his father, J. K. Windham.

Counsel for the State and for the defense have contended with much zeal and earnestness for the rights guaranteed them by the rules of evidence and the law of the land.

Mr. J. M. Spears, representing the defense, will make his argument on the opening of the court tomorrow morning, and will be followed by Solicitor J. M. Johnson, for the prosecution.

KISTLER WINDHAM ACQUITTED.

Darlington, March 9.—"Not guilty" was the verdict of the jury in the case against Kistler A. Windham, charged with having stabbed Charlie Amerson to death at Lamar, this county, on the 17th day of February.

A sewerage system is a necessity for Sumter.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS.

Items of Interest Condensed and Paraphrased for Quick Reading.

State Treasurer Jennings who has been in a hospital in Baltimore for several weeks has returned to Columbia much improved in health.

The Darlington grand jury found no true bill against Peagram Dargan after considering the indictment in which he was charged with aiding and abetting his brother, Robert Keith Dargan, in taking his own life.

J. C. Stokes is suing the city of Columbia for \$10,000 damages for injuries received in 1903 by falling through a defective street bridge.

Mrs. E. P. Williamson, of Darlington, the mother of Messrs. Bright and McVey Williamson, died Wednesday, aged 73 years.

Governor Heyward commissioned Mr. Lee G. Holleman as State bank examiner on Wednesday.

Thomas Harrison and Peter Rowley who were arrested on the charge of killing Ephraim Hall, a railroad man in Greenville, have been released on bond.

James M. Green, a grocer in Columbia has filed a voluntarily petition in bankruptcy. Assets \$4,500, liabilities \$7,000.

The board of trustees of the University of South Carolina on the fifteenth ballot elected Mr. John P. Thomas, Jr. of Columbia, to the new chair in connection with the law department.

Mr. Laurence Orr Patterson of Greenville having declined the place on the board of the State Industrial School tendered him by Governor Heyward, Professor D. D. Wallace has been selected to fill the vacancy.

Some hope for the recovery of Julius H. Evans of Marion, who recently fell from a second story window, is now entertained.

A. C. Kaufman, president of the South Carolina branch of the National Red Cross Society, has issued an appeal in behalf of the sufferers in northern Japan who are the victims of a famine due to the failure of the rice crop.

L. M. Gasque has been qualified as a member of the fish and oyster commission. Mr. Gasque has been a member of the legislature from Marion county for several years.

William Ashmead Courtenay has given to the library of the University of South Carolina a portrait of General Beauregard, painted by Mr. Carter, of Virginia, which is an admirable likeness and will be most highly prized.

C. Lum Ward, a well known horse trader and farmer living three miles from Greenville, was mortally wounded by George Douglass on Wednesday. The trouble grew out of a horse trade.

The county officials of Spartanburg gave demanded that an investigation of county finances be made at once to set at rest the rumors of crookedness that have been in circulation.

The Greenville News is authority for the statement that real estate in that county is returned for taxation at only 23 per cent. of its market value, while the property of cotton mills, banks and other corporations are assessed at 60 per cent.

Representative Lever has arranged with the postoffice department to place a mail agent, J. J. Bickley, on the early train out of Laurens for Columbia.

Information has been received in Aiken announcing the engagement of Mrs. Bobbie Shaw to Waldorf Astor, son of Wm. Waldorf Astor. The wedding is to occur shortly. Mrs. Shaw is now in England.

The pension of Capt. Amos McManus, of Yorkville, a Mexican war veteran, has been raised from \$8 to \$20 a month. The pension of Col. James D. Elanding, of Sumter, has also been similarly increased.

A call to the Democratic voters and taxpayers of the city of Union to meet and organize a municipal democratic club for nominating city officials was taken around by Editor John Gage of the Times and was signed by practically every business man.

Representative Lever in Washington introduced D. F. Eild of Lexington to the president and also at the agricultural department. There they were assured that Lexington would get one of the diversification farms, though it would not be put into operation this year.

Druggists who sell certain grades of patent medicines that contain large percentages of alcohol will have to pay the retailers' revenue license after April 1st.

Representative Patterson has been urging that the buildings of the Port Royal navy yard be converted into a tuberculosis hospital. He had a long conference with the surgeon of the army a few days ago and he was assured that the methods of treating tuberculosis nowadays were such as to preclude any danger of the spread of the disease in the community by reason of the patients there.

Saturday night between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock, T. C. Thompson, colored, was shot in the head and instantly killed by an unknown person near Switzer. Thompson and several other negroes were sitting around the

fire in a house on the place of Dr. J. B. Stepp when the shot was fired through a window only a few feet away. The weapon was a shotgun and the entire contents entered the right temple.

A tramp was horsewhipped within an inch of his life Friday for insulting a lady living near Gaffney.

Application has been made to the State sinking fund commission by Richland county for a loan of \$15,000.

Engineer Dal Spinks of the Southern railway, recently of Atlanta, was struck in the head and hurled from his cab at 2:35 Sunday afternoon, while his train, the Atlanta-Richmond local, was running through a deep cut between Latham and Easley, 13 miles south of Greenville. Half a mile further Fireman Smith missed the engineer and stopped the train. Spinks was found unconscious beside the track. He was brought to Greenville and died in an hour. Presumably he was leaning far out and was looking backwards.

The Spartanburg correspondent of The News and Courier says: The White Stone Hotel which was destroyed by fire on Sunday night, will be rebuilt just as soon as possible. Plans will be prepared at an early date and the contract will be let as soon as practicable. The bottling works, several cottages, the store and one or two other buildings were not damaged in the least by the flames, though the hotel property was totally destroyed. The building was insured for \$25,000, and the furniture for \$12,000, which is only partial. The building was valued at \$125,000.

There was considerable feeling in Florence Monday when the Coast Line pay train reached there and the paymaster began paying off the men in the shops and the yards, and it was found that some of the merchants had garnished or attached the money of about 75 or 80 of the Coast Line employes. The paymaster refused to pay the men on the ground that their money had been attached by a firm of attorneys of Atlanta, Ga., under the laws of Georgia, for the Florence merchants. Just what the outcome will be cannot be told. Some of those who had their money garnished were men of promise in their departments. The Coast Line Company has a rule that if an employe gives an order on his time or has his money garnished or attached, it will be sufficient cause for dismissal from the service. If the rule is enforced there will be very nearly a hundred men dropped from their work during the next few days, hence the feeling in regard to the matter.

SMALLPOX AT HERIOTS.

Dr. Alexander C. Dick has notified Health Officer Reardon of a case of smallpox on the plantation of Miss Dora Colclough, near Heriots, Sumter county. The Sumter health officer has sent out to Dr. Dick a supply of vaccine virus with the request that Dr. Dick immediately begin a systematic vaccination of that section, and he has notified Dr. James Evans of Florence, S. C., the secretary of the State health board, of the notice received from Dr. Dick. Dr. Dick says that the patient is a young negro man, and that quite a number of the patient's friends and relatives have been to see him. Therefore if there are any persons in Sumter who have not been successfully vaccinated within six years, they had better be vaccinated immediately as some of the negroes who visited this smallpox patient are apt to come to Sumter a country negroes do every Saturday to do their trading, and there is danger of bringing the germs of smallpox in their clothing.

Whenever smallpox prevails nearly any city or town it is safer for all citizens of that town or city to be successfully vaccinated. While there is very little danger of a serious outbreak of smallpox in Sumter owing to the fact that nearly of our citizens are successfully vaccinated, nevertheless there is always a certain percentage of people who escaped successful vaccination, and there are also numbers of new comers who have never been vaccinated. Sumter has escaped having smallpox during the past winter while surrounding towns have had quite a number of cases. But the disease is now getting closer and closer to Sumter, and successful vaccination of every citizen will keep it out of Sumter entirely.

Mr. Ebbie Wells went to New York city to prosecute a claim against one of the city railway companies for negligently breaking his arm about two years ago. The case was not brought to trial as a compromise was effected, which was highly satisfactory to Mr. Wells.

The reception on Thursday evening at the residence of Rev. N. W. Edmunds by the Ladies' Aid Society of the Presbyterian church, complimentary to Rev. J. P. Marion, Jr., the new pastor of the church, was attended by practically all of the congregation, despite of the inclement weather which might have been expected to deter many from being present. The reception was a very pleasant and successful affair and was enjoyed by all present.