

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1906.

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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Subscribers are requested to examine the label on their papers, which show the date to which the subscription has been paid. Those who find that they are in arrears are requested to call and settle or remit at the earliest convenient date. The amount that each subscriber owes is small, but in the aggregate the amount due us for subscription is quite large—and we need the money.

THE SEWERAGE BOND ELECTION

The sewerage bond election will be held on December 18th, and it goes without saying that the qualified electors will authorize the issue of bonds by a vote that will be practically unanimous.

So far as can be learned in a general way, there is just enough opposition to sewerage and the issue of bonds to provide the means for installing this most necessary public utility to demonstrate that sewerage is an issue and that there are two sides to the question. The opposition, however, is not sufficiently strong, numerically, to arouse any feeling of uneasiness, or apprehension of the ultimate result, in the minds of those who have been working and waiting for years for sewerage.

There are something like nine hundred freeholders in Sumter, and of this number 520 signed the petition presented to City Council. This does not mean, however, that the other freeholders are opposed to sewerage and declined to sign the petition. The fact is that Health Officer Reardon, who had charge of the petition, did not find it necessary to call on all of the freeholders, since those whom he did call on signed it so unanimously that he quickly and easily secured the necessary majority; and when this was accomplished, the canvass for signatures was discontinued. He secured the signatures of 520 of the nine hundred and odd freeholders by calling on less than 575, for only about fifteen of those to whom the petition was presented declined to sign it.

This statement is proof positive that the people of Sumter who are most vitally interested in the result of the bond issue—the property owners, who will bear the light additional burden of taxation imposed by the issue of bonds—are almost unanimously in favor of assuming the burden in order that the city may enjoy the benefits of a modern system of sewerage. The property owners being willing to pay for sewerage, it is but reasonable to assume that the qualified electors who are not freeholders should be willing for the city to have a sewerage system and will vote in the special election to authorize the bond issue. We trust, nevertheless, that no one who favors sewerage will act on the assumption that a favorable outcome of the bond election is a foregone conclusion. Every qualified elector should exercise the right of suffrage in the bond election on December 18th. We should poll a big vote and make it as nearly unanimous as possible.

HARD TIMES.

Everybody, almost, is blue and crying hard times, but the financial stringency and commercial depression consequent upon a short cotton crop are only transitory, and in effect and extent are confined to a comparatively limited area.

The country, as a whole, is prosperous; and progress, development and improvement in all lines of industry are in the atmosphere.

One poor cotton crop may retard the progress temporarily, but it cannot and will not block the onward and upward movement of industrial growth. This section of South Carolina has developed and improved and prospered steadily, year after year, with no retrogression for the past ten years. Within that period there have been times when the movement was retarded momentarily, but there has been no backward movement. There has been a steady gain, some years great, some years small, but taking the average for ten years, a marked and gratifying gain.

Therefore, we feel that this is no time to grow downhearted, or to cultivate a crop of blues. This year which, taken as a whole, has been the most discouraging of any in the decade, is so, not so much as the result of a short crop, as the consequence of extravagance and prodigality in business and living.

A few years of good crops and high prices have served to render economy—even ordinary prudence—a forgotten and an unfamiliar term. With not a few the growing of cotton has come to be almost as reckless a gamble as a dicer in cotton futures, via the bucket shop. No gamble is a

perfectly sure thing, and while the cotton grower wins most of the time, it is inevitable that once in awhile the game must go against him. Then the heavy fertilizer bills, and the other big crop expenses that represent his margins, crowd and squeeze him uncomfortably.

The farmer who has hedged his cotton speculation by providing for his living at home, cotton or no cotton, passes through the stress of poor crop years unscathed and is prepared to play the game again the next year with the odds more in his favor; but he who risks his all and as much of his neighbor's as he can obtain on credit, invites disaster just as surely as he who tackles the bucket shop without sufficient resources to resist the shaking out process that makes the game profitable to those who play it as a business.

Four or five years ago the farmers of Sumter county were, as a rule, living at home and every farm was self-sustaining. The result was that the farmers made money and grew prosperous on 6, 7 and 8 cent cotton. They not only made money and had a surplus each year, but this prosperity had a reflex action and their lands, which a few years before had a market value of only six to ten dollars an acre, were in demand last year at two to five times their former value. If this year's short cotton crop and the hardships resulting therefrom shall serve to impress upon our people, merchants, as well as farmers, that cotton alone is not the basis of our prosperity, but that cotton as a surplus crop, economically grown, can and will make the South prosperous, the squeeze that we are now enduring will be not only salutary, but a blessing in disguise.

County Teachers Pass Resolutions.

At a meeting of the rural school teachers of Sumter county on Nov. 23d the following resolutions, read by Miss Teo. Dargan, were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we make an earnest and united effort to have the office of the county superintendent of education made one of the largest and most attractive in the Court House now being erected and that we appoint a committee of this body to wait upon the proper authorities and ask for such a room as will provide for the comfort and convenience of the teachers when visiting the county seat on business or pleasure.

Resolved, That we call upon our members of the legislature to give to the county superintendent of education a salary somewhat commensurate with the arduous and important duties of his office so that he may be enabled to visit the schools and to ascertain the character of the work being done in each, and otherwise to stimulate and advance the educational interests in his charge.

Resolved, That we look with the greatest pride upon the beautiful city which has grown up at our county seat and that we feel an especial pleasure in the work of the splendid city schools and we pledge ourselves to spare no effort to make the country homes and farms as beautiful and attractive as are now the lovely city residences and the rural schools of our county of such a character as to awaken a pride in our city friends and fellow workers in our achievements equal to that we now feel in theirs.

CONGRESS IN SESSION.

The Lawmakers Assembled This Morning and Immediately Adjourned Until Tomorrow.

Washington, Dec. 3.—The Fifty-ninth Congress opened with a full membership in the Senate consisting of 57 Republicans and 33 Democrats, and 384 members in the House. Two vacancies in the House are unfilled, one from New York and one from Massachusetts. There are 248 Republicans and 136 Democrats in the House.

The Senate has a full membership for the first time in over three years. The House initiated eight new members among them Saunders, Democrat, from Virginia, and Edwards from Georgia, Democrat.

After the adoption of resolutions in memory of deceased members, the House adjourned till Tuesday. The first business will be the reading of the President's message.

PERNICIOUS ACTIVITY.

Civil Service Commission Will Begin An Investigation of the Operation of 32...

Washington, Dec. 3.—Not a day of the time during the next few months will be spent by the Civil Service Commission in investigating the charges of pernicious political activity on the part of Federal office holders. In order to accomplish this work, they have outlined a two-months tour through the South, going to the scenes in person rather than having witnesses come to Washington. The first cases to be investigated will be those brought by Senator Simmons of North Carolina against Republican office holders in that State.

The friends of Col. T. V. Walsh will regret to learn that after being at his office for a few days last week he is again quite sick.

Dr. Baylis H. Earle, of the U. S. Marine Service, who has charge of the quarantine station at Charleston, when in the city a few days ago stated in a conversation that the immigrants who came to Charleston on the Wittekind were altogether the best lot of immigrants that he had ever seen. Dr. Earle's opinion should carry weight as he was for several years a physician on one of the German trans-Atlantic liners that brings thousands of immigrants to New York every year.

Sunday at Pinewood, a Mr. Perry accidentally shot and wounded Dick Moore, colored, by discharging a 44-calibre revolver which he was examining. The ball entered the thigh, and luckily escaped the bone and the two large arteries in the leg. The man was attended by Dr. H. A. Mood, and is now resting easily.

The removal of the signs has wonderfully improved the appearance of Main and Liberty streets.

The advertisement of the D. J. Chandler Clothing Company will attract attention and arouse interest amongst customers and competitors. They state certain facts in a manner to attract attention and create confidence. They have the goods which they want to sell, and the interest that their advertisement creates will have a tendency to accomplish the result desired. Every person in need of clothing is invited to visit the store of the D. J. Chandler Clothing Co.

Thanksgiving.

By long and happily established custom Thanksgiving has come to be regarded, not simply as a New England, but also a national festival.

It is the great American feast day whereon, too, it is good to make merry, to eat the bread of rejoicing, and to sing the cheerful glees of a homely melody.

On its human side the sweetest aspect of Thanksgiving is seen in its provision for family reunions.

Thanksgiving is emphatically a home day. Yet it should not, on that account, be any the less a day when the homeless are cared for, and the hearts of the solitary made to rejoice. It is an occasion both for domestic good cheer and sociological sacrifices.

The conception of Thanksgiving as a sacrifice needs to be retained: "Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving," is the word of the psalmist to our age as truly as it was a message to his own times.

Genuine thanksgiving customs nowadays should be just as it always has been.

However, the particular methods of its manifestation may, indeed, vary with the passing years.

Yet while the formal settings of life vary, the essence of life is the same. We have, therefore, substantially the same opportunity as had our forefathers, to convert sentiment into a sacrifice.

It is, indeed, no longer expected that the devout believer should bring his firstling lambs, and slay them before a visible tabernacle—nowadays he may send his lamb to a poor family or an asylum kitchen.

It is not now the custom for a pious housewife to bring out of her habitation "two wave loaves of two tenth deals" of fine flour, and present them as first-fruits unto the Lord but instead she perhaps orders rice, sugar or a bag of the best American flour sent around from the grocery to the humble domicile of some destitute family. J. Klien. Sumter, Nov. 28, 1906.

Prevent Headache.

Force them? No—aid them. Ramon's treatment of Liver Pills and Tonic Pellets strengthens the liver and digestive organs so that they do their own work and fortifies your constitution against future trouble. Entire treatment 25 cents at Durant's Drug Store.

Recorder's Court.

The following cases were disposed of by Recorder Hurst Saturday: A. S. Fichett, public drunkenness, \$2.00. William Hemphill, public drunkenness, \$2.00. J. E. Hodge, public drunkenness, \$2.00. James Edwards, disorderly conduct, \$1.00 on six days, and he took the case.

A Full Stock To Select From.

It is a matter of serious regret to us that we are not doing as much business as we would like to but the fault is not ours, it is chargeable to the shortness of the cotton crop upon which we have to depend so much.

Those who are familiar with the situation say

WE ARE THE BUSIEST STORE IN TOWN

but if that be so, we can only express sympathy for our neighbors. It is true there are many days that we cannot wait on the trade intelligently, but they do not come as often as we would like to.

Every department of our stores will be found amply supplied to meet any demand that may be made upon us. Some had to be replenished, others are overstocked as a result of early Fall purchases. It is needless to say that we are anxious to unload our surplus stock and will not permit any reasonable opportunity to do so to escape us, as the season is getting late.

DRESS GOODS. TABLE DAMASK. FLANNELS.

We have made a deep cut here it hurts us but helps you. See our offerings at 39 cents a yard, worth 50 to 60c.

SILKS. SILKS. Here is another great saving for those who are interested 75 cents to 1.00 values at 60c.

You will always find our line of damask complete and up-to-date Everybody buys and that is why we keep such a full stock. Prices 25 cents to \$1.50 a yd. **TOWELS.** There is no better towel can be bought for 25 cents than we sell.

We carry a very full stock of these in red and from 1 1/2c to 50c a yard.

OUTING FLANNELS. We bought these in the Spring and the number we are selling now at 8 1/2c cannot be duplicated to sell for less than 10cts.

Godman Shoes. Reed Shoes. Just Wright Shoes

Since we reduced the price on our Godman Shoes they have been moving rapidly. As soon as the surplus stock is unloaded we will go back to the regular price.

We could give unlimited testimonials as to the wearing qualities of these goods They are a combination that is hard to beat—quality style and comfort. Prices 2.00 to 3.50

These were strangers until about a year ago, but it is remarkable how quickly people find out a good thing. The Just Wright are now as popular with the men as our Reed brand is with the ladies. Prices 3.50 to 5.00.

A FULL LINE OF CHILDREN'S and BOYS' SHOES FROM 50c TO 2.50 PER PAIR

CLOTHING.

We thought we were seriously hurt in this department but the special prices made in the early part of the month attracted attention, and it is remarkable to see how the piles have been reduced on our tables. Some people express surprise at the enormous stock of clothing we carry, and our only explanation is that we have a demand for it and sell it. Regular clothing houses enjoy the reputation of getting fancy prices, but with us it is marked on a basis of our general average profit, which probably accounts for our success with it.

O'Donnell & Co.

GET READY NOW!

WE ARE OPENING UP

THE TOYS

Come In—Look at Them. Bring the Children. The Store has taken on the Holiday Dress. Everything Imaginable in Toys—Dolls, Games and Play Things. China, Bric-a-Brac and Cut Glass. Big Reduction Now in Tailor Suits, Cloaks and Furs.

Come Here You'll Save Money. Only 3 Weeks Now to Xmas.

DON'T PUT OFF THE BUYING.

SCHWARTZ BROS.