

The Watchman and Southeron.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1907.

The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1859 and the True Southeron in 1866. The Watchman and Southeron 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.

Senator Blease made a big hurrah over his fight to save the State dispensary, but it is not so certain that his efforts did not aid rather than obstruct the plans of those who were working to abolish it.

While the anti-dispensary folks are rejoicing over the death of the State dispensary they should not forget the birth of two or three dozen county dispensaries which will afford greater opportunities for graft, comparatively, than did the State dispensary.

The "vested interests" are too strong in the legislature for any bill looking to the repeal of the lien law to get through. If the matter is ever referred to the people, as provided in the Richard's resolution, the lien law will be knocked out by an overwhelming majority.

The City of Charleston and the State of South Carolina will co-operate in the investigation of the railroad discrimination against Charleston. This is a good move, but since the discrimination is already proven beyond the shadow of a doubt, the commission should devote its time and talent to discovering a remedy for the intolerable conditions that have worked to the injury of Charleston and South Carolina.

The trouble with Sumter just at present seems to be not a dearth of opportunities for growth and development, but a lack of men with money and public spirit, as well as progressive ideas. There are no end of opportunities, some of them so patent and easily to be seen as to be obtrusive, but as there is more or less risk connected with all commercial and manufacturing enterprises. Sumter's public spirited citizens are cautious about investing their money, preferring more conservative risks, such as real estate mortgages. But as soon as any enterprise becomes an assured success there is a rush of public spirited citizens to get in and share in the dividends. There are opportunities here in prodigious abundance, but unfortunately, at this stage, we have not the men with money to finance them.

THE TELEPHONE SITUATION.

The telephone situation is up to the City Council and something should be done. The officers of the Sumter Telephone Company frankly confess their inability to furnish the service that the public demands, except at an increased rate, and state that unless the council grants permission to increase the rates no improvement in existing conditions can be expected. There are a number of people who have been wanting telephones for months, but the company has not supplied them and the officers say that they cannot do so.

There are two courses open to City Council: either grant permission to increase the rates as requested by the company, or take legal steps to compel the company to comply with the terms of the franchise under which it operates. It is a serious problem that confronts council and one that cannot be decided off-hand; but it is a problem, nevertheless, that should be solved as speedily as possible. The town is growing rapidly and the necessity for efficient and comprehensive telephone service reaching to all sections of the city is more urgent than ever before and will grow more urgent all the time. The people have a right to expect and demand of the Sumter Telephone Company that they be served, for when the corporation accepted the franchise it assumed the obligation to furnish telephone service at specified rates to each and every citizen who should apply for it. On the other hand the officers of the Sumter Telephone Company set up the claim that they are unable to discharge this obligation. If they cannot, they cannot, and that would appear to be an end of the matter, so far as the Sumter Telephone Company is concerned. This confession would seem to put the Sumter Telephone Company at the mercy of the City Council, and it is for that body to say what disposition shall be made of the franchise and property of the company. There is no disposition in

the community, so far as can be learned, to deal harshly with the Sumter Telephone Company, no desire to enforce the exact letter of the law, but the conditions now existing cannot, in common justice to the public, be permitted to continue indefinitely.

Thirty-two Millions.

The daily papers announce that Mr. John D. Rockefeller has given the general education board of New York thirty-two millions dollars. He had previously given that board eleven millions, thus making forty-three millions in all. The gift is intended to assist in the work of the board throughout the country, and is designed to help educational institutions. The announcement was made to the board in a communication from Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and is made in about fifteen lines. One-third of the amount is to be added to the permanent endowment of the board, and two-thirds to be applied to such specific objects within the corporate purposes of the board as Mr. Rockefeller, or his son, may from time to time direct.

This is the largest sum ever given at one time to the cause of education, or any other object, so far as we know. We are glad that this large gift comes from a Baptist, who is most highly esteemed as a devoted Christian by those who know him best, and who have known him for many years from his youth up. Many newspaper paragraphers have frequently made flings at the Rockefeller in connection with their church work, Sunday school work, and Bible classes, but it is doubtful if these same paragraphers are ever seen in a Sunday school, or even in church. It ill becomes them to make sport of a man's church life and religious activities. That is one thing that should be sacredly let alone, no matter how poor or humble or rich may be the subject of such cheap wit and ridicule.—Baptist Courier.

Millions of money, like charity, cover a multitude of sins. Likewise it is well to make friends unto yourself of the mammon of unrighteousness.

TAX COLLECTIONS.

The Total Amount Paid is Much Greater Than Last Year, Owing to Increased Valuation.

In no way, perhaps, is the gratifying and remarkable increase in the wealth of Sumter county more forcibly illustrated than by the following comparative statement of the increased valuation of taxable property, while the table of taxes paid monthly as compared with the previous year shows that the county is in good financial condition, despite the cry of hard times.

The assessed valuation of taxable property of Sumter county for 1905 was \$5,421,340, as compared with \$6,750,244 for 1906, shows an increase of \$1,328,904 for the past 12 months ending with the fiscal year. For the city of Sumter in 1905 the amount was \$1,060,020, as compared with \$1,425,150, an increase of \$365,130.

Tax Collection for 1905.

The following is a table of taxes as paid to the county treasurer monthly for the fiscal year of 1905:

Oct. 15 to Nov. 15	\$ 5,730
Nov. 15 to Dec. 15	22,264
Dec. 15 to Jan. 15	33,830
Jan. 15 to Feb. 15	7,064
Total	\$68,888

For 1906.

Oct. 15 to Nov. 15	\$ 4,155
Nov. 15 to Dec. 15	12,757
Dec. 15 to Jan. 15	52,305
Jan. 15 to Feb. 15	8,857
Total	\$78,074

These figures show that the taxes collected by the county treasurer for 1906 up to date are comparatively much larger percentage than the collection for any previous year in the history of the county. It is also shown from a rough estimate that the executions for this year will not exceed, if, indeed, they are as numerous, as in any previous year.

City of Sumter.

The following is the list of taxes for the fiscal year of 1906 paid into the city up to date showing the different levies:

Real estate (10 mills)	\$13,494.14
Personal property	8,744.26
City bonds, interest and sinking fund	2,785.23
School tax	4,432.95
School bonds	3,349.78
Total	\$32,806.56

The books of the city treasurer show that up to date 99 1-3 per cent. of taxes for the past year have been collected, as compared with only 83 per cent. up to the same date for 1905.

Young married people and old ones too.

That have no children to laugh and coo,

Find their troubles will "Little ones" be,

If they take Rocky Mountain Tea. —Chira's Drug Store.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Sumter Telephone Company Explains Why the Service Can Not be Extended—Other Matters.

City Council held a regular meeting Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.

Mayor W. B. Boyle—Alderman, H. D. Barnett, P. P. Finn, R. F. Haynsworth, H. C. Haynsworth, E. H. Rhame and R. L. Wright were present.

Absent—Aldermen J. H. Chandler and R. K. Wilder.

Minutes of January 23rd were read and approved.

At request of the committee to which complaints against the Sumter Telephone Co. had been referred, Mr. I. C. Strauss, attorney for the company, was present to explain the situation. He stated that the company is not able to make extensions and supply telephones for new subscribers, having expended all of their capital and earnings for that purpose already and cannot keep up with the growth of the city. If Council will permit an increase of rates as subscribers had agreed, the company will continue to extend its service as fast as possible. But the best they can do under present circumstances is to take care of what they have. The matter was discussed and the committee was continued.

Mr. R. D. Epps, attorney for J. L. Archer, requested that Council return to his client \$200, license paid by him, as Money Lender on Personal Property. He cited the restrictions of law upon the power of Council to tax, the requirements as to reasonableness and equality. The question was referred to Alderman H. C. Haynsworth and the Clerk.

Applications were received from Messrs. H. G. McKagen and R. E. Baker for positions on the police force, and filed for consideration in case of a vacancy.

Report of the commissioners of public works for January was read and received as information.

An ordinance forbidding screens to billiard and pool rooms, and to prevent minors from frequenting such places was read, adopted and ordered published.

The ordinance to prevent raffling was laid on the table on motion of Mr. Finn, Aldermen H. C. Haynsworth and Rhame noting "nay."

Mr. Barnett, for the finance committee, reported that the clerk and treasurer's report for January had been examined and found correct.

Mr. Finn, for the committee of public works, reported work progressing on S. Sumter street.

Mr. H. C. Haynsworth, of the special committee on Turkey Creek canal, stated that his committee had not yet been able to get a hearing before the County Board of Commissioners, but thought the matter would be reached at the next meeting of the board. The committee was continued.

Mr. R. F. Haynsworth, for the police and sanitary committee, reported that a case of smallpox had occurred at Mrs. M. E. Brown's boarding house, in consequence of which her boarders had been forced to leave, and suggested that the city should allow Mrs. Brown some remuneration for her care of the patient, as the city had no hospital to which he can be sent. The committee was authorized to act according to their judgment.

Mr. Finn, of the Opera House committee, reported that the purchase of some furniture and installation of lights will be necessary for the council chamber on second floor of the building before council can occupy it. The committee was requested to ascertain and report the necessary cost involved.

The committee of public works was requested to consult with the commissioners of public works with a view to cultivation of a crop of oats for the city mules around the water station.

The following claims were referred to the finance committee:

T. B. Jenkins, \$14; Carolina Hardware Company, 60 cents; Von Ohsen & Shirar, \$230; Epperson Feed and Coal Company, \$59.25; Sumter Machinery Company, \$9.12; Durant Hardware Company, \$12.03; E. L. Vogel, \$1.75; Booth Live Stock Company, \$4.50.

Council then adjourned.

DR. SMITH'S LECTURE.

He Was Greeted by a Large and Appreciative Audience.

Dr. Henry Louis Smith, president of Davidson college, delivered a lecture in the Opera House Monday night, taking for his subject "Some of the Dreams of Modern Inventors." The eminent speaker and distinguished lecturer, with the graceful ease of a cultured orator, handled his subject in a masterful, entertaining and instructive manner.

Dr. Smith is well known in Sumter, having lectured here on previous occasions. He was, therefore, greeted by a large and appreciative audience, who were treated to a genuine literary feast.

WATSON'S COURSE QUESTIONED.

House of Representatives Calls for Information About Methods Used in Getting Immigrants that Came Over on the Wittelkind.

Washington, Feb. 16.—On motion of Mr. Gardner, of Massachusetts, the house today passed a resolution requesting the secretary of commerce and labor to send to the house any information relative to the introduction of foreign laborers into South Carolina by Labor Commissioner Watson, and the opinion of the solicitor of the department whether said laborers were lawfully admitted.

Mr. Gardner stated that 414 people had been admitted for labor in the factories in South Carolina, largely from Belgium and it was desired to know whether the alien contract law had been violated.

Mr. Finley, of South Carolina, in defending the course of the labor commissioner, said that Mr. Watson had acted in entire good faith; that the State needed desirable immigrants and had sought to obtain them in an honest manner.

Mr. Underwood, of Alabama, criticized the action of the president in interfering in the matter of the immigration bill.

ANOTHER BIG BANK.

New York Financiers are Planning Another Great National Bank.

New York, Feb. 16.—A new national bank is to be opened here shortly with a large capital, according to a well authenticated Wall street report today. Shubert, the independent theatrical manager, Geo. E. Cox, former Republican boss of Cincinnati, and Joseph Rhinock, of Kentucky, last two being closely identified with first named in many theatrical enterprises, are mentioned as the backers of the new institution. According to the report William Clark, the Montana multi-millionaire, who retires from the senate March 4th, will be asked to become president of the concern.

100,000 JAPS IN HONOLULU.

Crowding White Men out of Business Says Customs Officer.

"Japanese are arriving in Honolulu in double the number they were a few months ago," said Edwin Farmer, boarding officer of the United States customs service, yesterday, who is stationed at that port. Mr. Farmer is at the Raleigh Hotel. "In November 3,200 Japanese arrived at Honolulu, and in the succeeding months the number I judge has been just about as large," continued Mr. Farmer. "More than half of them remain in Hawaii; the others go on to California. The most of the Japanese who have reached Honolulu in the last few months are soldiers who served in the Russian war. They still wear the uniforms of that conflict. Among all the Japs I have seen—and I have seen all that have arrived and have examined their trunks, I have found one who brought a firearm with him. Some have their swords, but if they brought along firearms they have been successful in concealing them."

"There is a much larger number of Japanese coming to Hawaii and the United States than ever before. Whether it has any significance or not I do not know. In the last year a number of steamers operated by Japanese companies have come directly from Japan, carrying only Japanese. They do not proceed to California, but turn around and go back to Japan, after unloading their passengers at Honolulu. In 1900 there were 60,000 Japanese on the island of Hawaii. That number has been so largely increased that they are now crowding out many of the white people, who are engaged in business there. I do not know how many are there now, but I presume in the neighborhood of 100,000. They are not only seriously injuring the business industries of the whites, but they are hurting the laboring class. If they could be kept on the plantations they would not be so seriously objected to, but when the find out that they can make more money in the cities, they go there and engage in business pursuits that compete with the whites and natives."

"In Honolulu for many years there were three drug stores conducted by white men. Now there are probably a dozen drug stores, and a big majority of them are run by Japanese. It was not so long ago that the larger portion of the Japanese who put into Hawaii on the Pacific steamers kept on to San Francisco, but in the last few months I believe more have gone ashore at Honolulu than went to California."—Washington Post.

NEW YORK SHAKEN.

New York, Feb. 14.—Manhattan, Brooklyn and Jersey City were severely shaken this morning by an explosion at Bayonne, N. J. The first idea was that it was an earthquake shock and a panic followed along the river fronts. It is reported that the shock was caused by the explosion of one of the big Standard Oil tanks. A number of people are reported injured.

T. ROOSEVELT, ART CRITIC.

He Has Ordered New Design Made for Gold Coins.

Washington, Feb. 19.—President Roosevelt has directed a New York artist to prepare a new design for the gold coins of the United States. He thinks those now in use are inartistic.

The following board of control has been elected for Charleston county: Arthur Lynam, president of the Miners' and Merchants' Bank, elected by the Charleston delegation to the general assembly. B. H. Rutledge, elected by the mayor of Charleston and the intendent of Mount Pleasant. John Marshall, elected by the county board of education.

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Edgar Skinner.

PHONE 141. SUMTER, S. C.

Groceries.

We have so little to say about this branch of our business that some people might get the impression that we are neglecting it, but a glance through this department any day in the week will convince any person of its activity, in fact things are constantly

On a Rush There.

The secret of this is probably due to the character of our goods and prices, both of which must be right or we could not do the business. We buy practically everything in this line from first hands and in car lots.

MILLBOURNE FLOUR.

We have never found or heard of a brand that gives more universal satisfaction than this. Of course we carry cheaper grades to meet a popular demand, but if you want the best get MILLBOURNE.

100 Bags of Coffee.

This is probably the largest shipment of coffee ever received by a retail house in this section of the State. In fact we doubt if our wholesale friends would tackle a larger lot than this at a purchase. We thought it was cheap and that is why we bought so much, as it is our custom to buy goods freely when we think the price is right, regardless of quantity.

The Cost of Making a Crop.

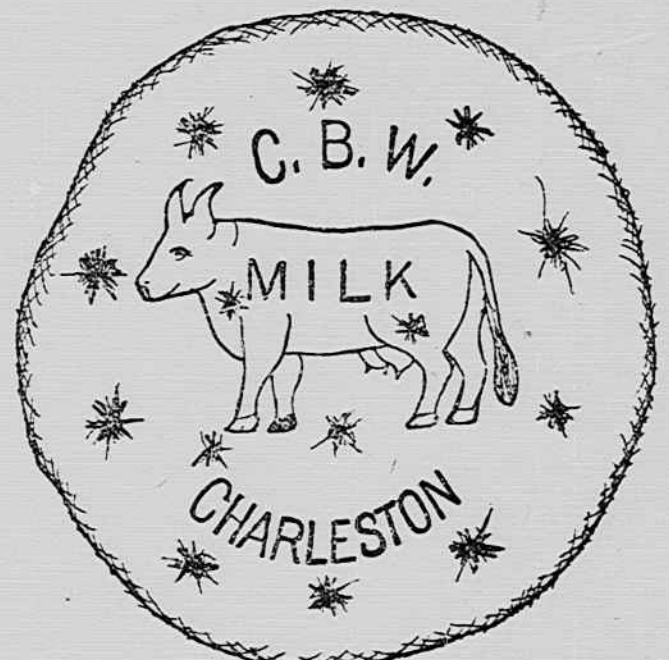
We hear a great deal about the expense of farming in comparison with some years back. This certainly does not apply to general groceries, for with the exception of bacon and lard, which at present are pretty dear, other goods are as cheap today as they were when cotton sold at six to seven cents per pound. We have particular reference to coffee, sugar, flour, meal, grits, corn, molasses and many other items that we might mention. Labor and live stock are the most expensive items that farmers have to contend with. We have a few of the latter.

RELIQS OF 1906

that we are anxious to dispose of and at BARGAIN DAY PRICES.

O'Donnell & Company

THE BUSY HOUSEWIFE appreciates the worth of our MILK LUNCH BISCUIT.



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