

THE WATCHMAN AND SOUTHRON

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1907.

The Sumter Watchman was founded in 1856 and the True Southerner in 1866. The Watchman and Southerner now has the combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

The historical address, delivered by Maj. H. F. Wilson at the dedication of the Court House Monday, was, in a small compass, comparatively speaking, a satisfactory and comprehensive history of the Bench and Bar of Sumter county. It is, so far as we know, the only accurate and connected account of the organization of and subsequent changes in Sumter county, and for this reason the issue of this paper containing it should be carefully preserved by all who are interested in the history of the city and county of Sumter. Maj. Wilson performed the task assigned him with a thoroughness and an intelligence that produced a result altogether admirable, and the people of Sumter owe him a vote of thanks.

Quite a number of the public schools of Sumter county have established school libraries; but the greater number of the schools are still without this important and valuable adjunct to successful school work. The schools that have libraries need new books each year to keep alive the interest in the libraries. We have a plan by which the teachers and pupils of the schools that desire to raise funds for establishing libraries or for purchase of new books may do so. By this plan sufficient money to establish a school library or to make a substantial addition to the one now owned by the school can be raised in a short time and with little labor, provided the interest and co-operation of the pupils and patrons of the schools can be enlisted. We shall be glad to submit the plan to any teacher, trustee or patron of a public school who will write for an outline of the plan.

At Fulton and Calvary townships, Clarendon county, vote for annexation to Sumter county a cordial welcome awaits them, but if they prefer remaining in Clarendon county no one in Sumter will criticize them. Clarendon is a good county, but Sumter is a better, and Sumter people think that the citizens of Fulton and Calvary townships show good judgment in wanting to get into Sumter county.

Superintendent of Education Martin forcibly informs Gov. Angel that (Martin) will not be a candidate for re-election as State superintendent of education. Does this mean that Mr. Martin will be a candidate for Governor in opposition to Mr. Angel next summer?

However much we may condemn Mr. Martin's caustic criticism of Gov. Angel our condemnation is of the terms employed and not of the criticism itself. Mr. Martin is altogether in the right in energetically protesting against the governor's treatment of him and his office. It seems that the governor is more desirous of creating a personal political machine by the slow distribution of appointments in the State board of education than the upbuilding of the educational interests of the State. Mr. Martin may be, as charged, more of a politician than an educator, but he has good judgment, since he has held the office of superintendent of education, to use his best efforts to carry out the carefully considered and broad-gauged educational programme outlined by Mr. J. J. McMahan when he held the office of superintendent of education. All the good that Mr. Martin has accomplished while he has been in office should be attributed to his recognition of the programme of Mr. McMahan's programme and not to anything that he himself has originated. Hence, while we denounce Mr. Martin's protest against Gov. Angel's political manipulation of the State board of education we do not endorse Mr. Martin himself, for we regard him as a shrewd politician possessed of the wisdom to profit from the good work of Mr. McMahan, but not as a man big enough to fill the office he holds—an office more important to the State than that of governor.

The News and Courier and other apologists for Attorney General J. Fraser Lyon may be able to find good law to support the contention that it is not the duty of the attorney general to prosecute the State dispensary grafters, but will some of them kindly go just a step further and tell us what Mr. Lyon really meant when he said on the stump: "Make me attorney general and I will put stripes on these men." Not once, but many times during the campaign did he use words to this effect in seeking to influence the people to vote for him. Did he mean anything or was it merely a vote-catching device.

The newspapers of the South have lately magnified the latest escapade of Bishop Potter of New York. If the shepherd of New York's Four Hun-

dred finds pleasure in the society of the negro Bishop of Liberia it is his privilege to entertain him at dinner or in any other manner he may see fit. It is simply a matter of taste, and Bishop Potter's sub-way saloon and other sensational escapades should have convinced everybody that he is a gentleman of indifferent judgment and execrable taste.

In the early part of the season the impression was prevalent that the local banks would not lend money on cotton and some farmers are said to have sold on a declining market without ascertaining that they could warehouse their cotton and borrow on the receipt. The fact is the local banks are lending money on cotton and are in a position to take care of all that may be stored in the local warehouse. In view of the fact that, as far as human foresight goes, cotton will sell for much higher prices before the next crop is planted it seems to be folly to sell now when the market is declining and every bale sold helps the speculators to succeed in the effort to rob the farmer of his just share of the profit. Remember that the cotton mills have their entire output sold months ahead at prices that leave them a satisfactory profit even though they pay 15 to 16 cents for middling cotton, and but for the folly of those farmers who, last spring, sold their crop for September and October delivery at ten or eleven cents, the market price would now be somewhere between thirteen and fifteen cents. This folly has cost the South many millions and will cost still more perhaps, sixty to seventy millions all told, for the season, but the farmers who still own the cotton they grew this year, can recoup some of the apparent loss by holding until the price advances.

Practically all the politicians whose fortunes were wrapped up in the State dispensary are now out and out prohibitionists and are as rabid against the Carey-Cothran system as the anti-dispensaryites were against the State dispensary. Which teaches that politics is a devious game. We cannot understand this sudden and furious enthusiasm over prohibition pure and undefiled (theoretically) that possesses some of the dyed-in-the-wool dispensary people. We still believe that the State dispensary system, if it had been honestly administered by a commission composed of men of the same type as those who are winding up the State dispensary, would have been an improvement on the county dispensary system, and more profitable also; we still believe that prohibition is impracticable under existing conditions and when it comes to a choice between prohibition and a county dispensary we shall favor the latter. If the time ever comes, however, when congress shall enact a law forbidding the shipment of liquors into prohibition States, and we believe and hope the time is not far distant, we will support a prohibition movement most sincerely, for we are convinced that South Carolina would be better off without liquor than with it.

COMING TO SUMTER.

People of Fulton and Calvary Townships Wish to be Annexed to Sumter County—Manning Times Takes Position for a Text and Makes Several Remarkably Inaccurate Statements.

The following article, which is taken from the Manning Times of the 16th instant, is reproduced as a matter of current news and to show the people of Sumter how ignorant is near a neighbor and frequent a visitor as the editor of the Manning Times can be of Sumter county's financial condition:

"We are informed by a recent visitor to Pinewood that a petition numerously signed has been secured to have Fulton and Calvary townships cut off from Clarendon and joined to Sumter. We hope the petitioners will reconsider and remain in Clarendon. In the first place the promoters of the scheme have not acquainted themselves of the area necessary for a county and in our judgment the cutting off of the two townships would bring this county below the limit fixed by the constitution; in the second place the circulators of the petition have not told the signers that Sumter county is tax-burdened, loaded down with bond issues, and more to be issued, and if they vote themselves into Sumter they simply jump out of low taxes into a mountain of high taxes, a whirl-pool of debt and become contributors to debts they had nothing to do with contracting. We are satisfied if a majority of the people in Calvary would study the conditions carefully they would hesitate before severing their connection with this county; they will upon investigation find that the projectors of the scheme argue convenience to court house as a reason for a change, but we do not believe any such stuff. Our opinion is that politics has a great deal to do with it. Convenience, fiddlesticks! What business people have at the court house can be as easily transacted in Manning as in Sumter. The railroad runs by both places. No, there is no element in the

town of Pinewood who are urging this change, and without counting the cost they go ahead, secure signatures to a petition and many of the signers haven't given the matter a serious thought, nor has it been explained to them. So far as we are personally concerned, and so far as the county seat is concerned it makes, from a commercial standpoint, very little difference to us, if the change is made; Clarendon to lose Fulton may be the gainer, but it would be a decided loss to have Calvary leave us. If the promoters of this movement will send us a copy of that petition we will gladly publish it so the rest of the county can know some of those who are delirious of severing their county relation with Clarendon. We have an idea if the petition is published it will disclose the names of some who received honors and emoluments from Clarendon. As we understand the proposition, the section sought to be cut off and attached to Sumter runs from the Sumter line north to Cain Savannah road on the East, thence South from W. R. Davis' store to Santee River, making the river the western boundary.

"Sumter has been looking with covetous eyes for this slice of Clarendon ever since the formation of Lee county, and now that Sumter has loaded herself down with debt; the building of a \$150,000 court house, and the issuing of bonds for other improvements, territory is wanted to help cough up this money, and we urge our readers in the threatened section before casting their votes to weigh well what they are doing, and ask themselves if the additional burden they are asked to take will be compensated for in convenience, and possibly in the political preferment of some few citizens who imagine they are born to rule."

The above publication in the Manning Times was news to the people of Sumter. So far as the writer has been able to ascertain by inquiry today few, if any, Sumter people were aware of the effort being made by the citizens of Fulton and Calvary townships to have that section of Clarendon county annexed to Sumter county, until the Manning Times' article was called to their attention. A year ago a rumor was prevalent that the people of western Clarendon were desirous of annexation to Sumter county, but nothing came of the report and Sumter folks concluded that there was nothing in it. While the movement for annexation to Sumter county originates with Clarendon, it is fostered by the people most vitally interested—the citizens of Fulton and Calvary townships, Clarendon

county—and is not, as the Manning Times alleges, a scheme of Sumter people to increase the area of Sumter county at the expense of Clarendon, they will be welcomed into Sumter county if the desire to come. Many and close ties now link this city to the Fulton and Calvary sections and the people of Sumter appreciate and value the friendship and business patronage of these people and all other Clarendon county citizens who are frequent visitors to this city. They are good friends now and if they wish to cast in their lot with Sumter county, Sumter people will not be slow to extend them a welcome back to the old home county.

If these people really and earnestly desire annexation to Sumter county they cannot be frightened out of their purpose by the inaccurate statements of the Manning Times. The most cursory investigation will prove the utter falsity of the statement "that Sumter county is tax-burdened, loaded down with bond issues, and more to be issued." A more groundless and reckless assertion was never made. Sumter county has a bond issue of \$30,000 outstanding, this amount having been authorized to complete the new court house, which cost \$131,000, and not \$150,000 as asserted by the Times. Sumter county has no other debt, except a loan from the sinking fund commission, which will be repaid out of this year's taxes. The county is on a cash basis and there is no need for nor intention to issue bonds. To the contrary, the present income of the county is sufficient for current expenses and to provide a sinking fund for the gradual retirement of the court house bonds. As to the county being tax-burdened, a comparison of the tax levies of Sumter and Clarendon counties shows that the total levy in Sumter county is just 1-2 mill greater than the total levy in Clarendon county, and 1 mill of the Sumter county levy is for repayment of the sinking fund loan. Hence the probability is that next year the levy in Sumter county will be less than that in Clarendon. The tax levy is as follows:

Sumter county: For State 4 1-2 mills; for county ordinary 2 3-4 mills; for sinking fund loan 1 mill; for constitutional school 3 mills; total 11 1-4 mills.
Clarendon county: For State 4 1-2 mills; for county 2 3-4 mills, for roads 1-2 mill; constitutional school 3 mills; total 10 3-4 mills.

Hence the bald assertion of the Manning Times that Sumter county is a "mountain of high taxes, a whirl-pool of debt" is not borne out by the facts.

CLOTHING.

There is no department of our business in which we take a greater interest than our Clothing, and our efforts are being appreciated, for each year shows a decided increase over the previous one. This department is the special pet of our Mr. Chandler, who has absolute control over it, buying what he wants, and wherever he can get it to the best advantage, and from his experience of twenty years' association with us, he ought to be as well versed in the requirements of the people of Sumter and surrounding counties as any man in the clothing business.

Were we in a position to make the display of our Clothing stock that other houses do, we could probably sell more, but space forbids that, however those who have been buying Clothing from us for years do not object going to the back part of our Dry Goods Department to make their selections, for they know from experience that

Our Guarantee is Back of Every Dollars Worth They Buy.

Our leading line of Men's Clothing is the celebrated

HORSE SHOE BRAND.

The Horse Shoe generally means good luck, but in this case we know it means

GOOD WEAR AND PERFECT FITTING.

We are showing a complete line of these goods in black granites, thibets, black and blue serges, black unfinished worsteds and fancy worsteds in plaid stripes at

\$10.00, \$12.50, \$15.00, \$20.00 and \$22.50.

We are showing an excellent line of
MEN'S GRAVNETTE COATS AT \$10.00 TO \$16.50.

Our line of
YOUTHS' AND BOYS' CLOTHING
will be found very attractive as to
STYLE, QUALITY AND PRICE.

O'Donnell & Company

SCHWARTZ BROTHERS.

Catering to the Wants of All.

SCHWARTZ BROTHERS.

With every class of good merchandise at no other place can such perfect stocks be found.

Our elimination and judicious buying allows us to offer all that is fine and beautiful in the world of man's wear at the most moderate prices. The Express on Saturday brought us 25 New Tailor Made Suits. We have promised to fit and ease you in the latest and some very swell models—one a Hazel Brown Velvet—a most distinguished gown. The same Express brought us several new Models in Ladies' Long Cloaks, Tan, Castor, Garnet, Black. It will be a pleasure to show them.

WE PRESENT THIS WEEK

- 50 New Latest Silk Waists, Black, Navy and Brown. The front is formed of bunches of fine ruffles. The back is tucked and made of new design. A \$5 Waist, sale at \$4.25
- Our line of Embroidered Handkerchiefs in pure Linen, beginning at 15 cents up to \$1.50 is the finest collection ever brought to Sumter.
- 40 dozen all-Linen hem-stitched White Handkerchiefs at 10 cents. Can be matched nowhere.
- 5 dozen Ladies' Shirt Undershirts—in cream White, light Blue and Pink, Outing at 9 cents and 10 cents

Hold Cotton!

Why sell your cotton for less than its value when you can store it and borrow money on the receipt to meet your obligations? Sumter Cotton Warehouse receipts are bankable collateral and merchants will extend credit on them.

Why put your cotton out in the weather to deteriorate in grade and depreciate in price from \$2 to \$5 a bale and run the risk of fire when for 20c a bale per month (25c for a single month) you can be fully protected? With your cotton stored in the Sumter Cotton Warehouse you are free of anxiety of damage by fire or weather; and provided with good collateral for the banks, if you need money, you can hold for higher prices. See us at once and store your cotton.

Sumter Cotton Warehouse Co.
10-23-1m R. F. HAYNSWORTH, Manager.

Mules and Horses.

A carload just received. Assorted sizes. Come to see me. I guarantee to satisfy the hardest. Please. All young, sound and well broken. This carload is assorted for all purposes. The mules are all males, and as good as money can buy. I will make the prices attractive. A full line

Guaranteed Wagons, Buggies and Harness

Always in stock. By all means see me before you buy.

A. D. Harby.

Agent for Moyer Buggies. Agent for Milburn Wagons.